

1998 OLD NEWSBOYS DAY

Featuring the Fourth Annual
1998 McDonald's
Children's Choice Awards

Unsinkable
'Titanic' emerges on
top in movie vote

SPECIAL EDITION

Suburban Journals

SERVING THE CHILDREN OF GREATER ST. LOUIS AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1998

Mac's the Man McGwire leads kid's vote

By Dennis Barnidge
Staff writer

Here in the Old Newsboys bunker, we old newsboys and old newsgirls are burning up with kids fever. They're cute, they're cuddly, they cut the grass and they say the darndest things.

But we would be less than honest if we didn't point out that were it not for your brother-in-law, the genius behind New Coke and whoever thought "Speed 2: Cruise Control" was a good idea, our cute and cuddly kids might lead the league in silly decisions. We give you: the Spice Girls, Spaghetti-Os, the WB network and the Olsen twins. Enough said.

Kids come by those sort of left brain decisions honestly. Mom and Dad, though safely beyond the folly of youth, have to step forward and take the heat for Branson, PSLs, Nixon, the musical Cats, fondue, Astronaut and Oliver Stone movies. Kid missteps almost never follow the footprints of adult silliness.

They see the world from down there; we see it from behind the latest orthodontist bill. We want them to gawk at the grandeur of the Grand Canyon; they bolt back to the motel pool. We say we've paid the freight on every ride at Six Flags; they say they need \$10 for Whack-A-Mole tokens. We say vegetables; they say yuck. Different strokes....

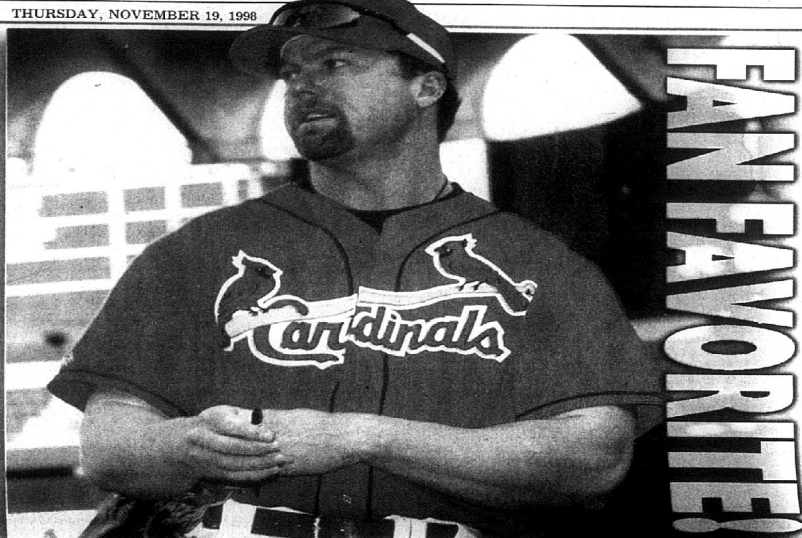
Two things we do agree on: Grandma's the queen, and Mark McGwire is the king.

The Grandma thing is obvious. Always has been.

After this summer's wild and giddy home-run ride, the McGwire thing is obvious too. Teens and pre-teens surveyed in the McDonald's Children's Choice awards agreed he was their favorite male athlete.

Parents can grill Buddy and Sissy on any number of topics. What do you mean: You want to Get Jiggy Wit It? - but McGwire isn't one of them. Kids have hit this one dead-solid perfect.

See MAC, Page 10A



Kid choices featured in today's issue

By Dan Barger
Staff Writer

The only surprise in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards would have been if Mark McGwire lost. After all, he's a Wheaties box icon, one of the latest pitchmen for McDonald's and adorns more baseball collectible paraphernalia than Stan Musial could shake a bat at. The St. Louis Cardinals slugger has made an impact.

It's the fourth year that children's choices have been the theme of the annual Old Newsboys Day edition of the Suburban Journals. Ballots appeared in the newspaper and the children of the region responded by the thousands. The results are published here.



Rick Graefe photo

The "Best Of" selections by teenagers and pre-teen youngsters ran the gamut from the ridiculous to the sublime, and while some favorite favorites are again atop the list (Monopoly, Jim Carrey, Florida and

Mom, among others) there are a variety of results that are surprising. Take math for example. Despite the

See KIDS, Page 9A

Cards have had plenty of aces

McGwire record just part
of St. Louis team's tradition

By Kevin Carbery
Staff writer

To all you new Cardinal fans, welcome to the club!

You have helped vote the St. Louis Cardinals as the McDonald's Children's Choice Award Winners for sports teams and you have chosen wisely.

Mark McGwire has made Redbird devotees out of thousands of youngsters and I can only hope that your support of the St. Louis National League baseball franchise is as rewarding to you as it has been to me.

I have lived and died with the Cardinals for as long as I can remember. I grew up worshipping players such as Bob Gibson, Lou Brock and Joe Torre.

See CARDS, Page 9A

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Old Newsboys Day

It is through the efforts of thousands of volunteers that the Suburban Journals could ever hope to carry off a program as complex as the annual Old Newsboys Day drive. Through the 42 years of the program, there has never been any doubt that St. Louisans young and old would come forward to spend so much time and effort raising funds for the children of St. Louis.

In fact, there are so many volunteers, it's hard for the commuting public to avoid them as they make their way to work on Old Newsboys Day. They are easy to spot. All Newsboys volunteers wear an apron with pockets they hope to fill with cash before the rush hour is over.

If the apron wasn't a giveaway, there are some Old Newsboys Day volunteers who make the annual drive into a party. The traditional garb for a street corner volunteers is a warm hat, an oversized coat, mittens and a long scarf. Nanook of the North couldn't be warmer. Others, though, will sports

rainbow fright wigs with large shoes and lots of face make-up. Santa Claus has been known to sell a few Old Newsboys Day editions in the past and Fredbird has been seen "hawking" the special editions.

The volunteers have come from every conceivable community group in St. Louis including neighborhood organizations, police departments, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, American Legion Posts, fire departments, senior citizen groups, chambers of commerce, small companies, large companies and medium-sized companies.

This year a large corps of volunteers helped at local malls during the Westfield Works Wonders event. They wrapped gifts, checked coats, provided directions and served refreshments.

Every year there is a special group always comes to the aid of Old Newsboys Day. The people of Camp Happy Day pack the kits that are sent out to those who sell the newspapers. It's a big job and one that Camp Happy

Day continues to carry out successfully.

It's not so much a question of where the Suburban Journals would be without the energetic volunteers who support the Old Newsboys Day program, but where the children of St. Louis would be. Those who give of their time each year really are supporting the programs that are run by agencies that help kids every day. The support these groups receive from the Old Newsboys Day program is small compared to their needs, but many organizations have come to rely on that support each year.

So here's a salute to the volunteers, the tireless workers who drag themselves from a warm bed and out into the early morning cold to hail passing motorists in search of dollars for charity. There might be easier ways to raise money. There certainly are warmer ways. But because of the tireless efforts of the Old Newsboys Day volunteers, there is no more gratifying way. Thank you all.



Fredbird does his best to sell a special Old Newsboys Day newspaper to a passing motorist

Rick Graefe photo

Bugs v. Bart: Who's real cartoon character of century?

By Ronnie Roy
Staff writer

Earlier this year, Time magazine brought together many experts and wise people and put together the "Time 100," a list of the most important people of the century. It was no small task.

When it came time to pick the most important cartoon character of the century, these experts and wise people picked — Bart Simpson?

What a bunch of maroons. What a bunch of ignoramuses. Fortunately, the participants in our McDonald's Children's Choice Awards know better, as they have picked, once again, that looney tune rabbit, Bugs Bunny. Bugs topped both the pre-teen and teen categories.

Bart didn't break the top 5. So, what do we make of this? Who's right, the experts or the kids?

In the spirit of fairness,

let's do a little compare and contrast.

In other words, "Of course you know, this means war."

Bart Simpson has been entertaining audiences for 11 years.

Bugs Bunny has been entertaining audiences for 58 years.

Bart is known as a wise-cracking troublemaker.

Bugs was been cracking wise and making trouble 14 years before Bart creator Matt Groening was born.

Bart often requires sister Lisa's help to get him out of trouble.

Bugs needs no one's help to get out of trouble. Is often required to get Daffy Duck out of trouble.

Bart often loses spotlight to dad, Homer.

Bugs never loses spotlight.

Bart takes 30 minutes to get out of trouble (20 if you remove commercials).

Bugs gets out of any jam in seven minutes, tops.

Bart's idea of a practical joke I: Making crank phone calls to Moe the Bartender.

Bugs' idea of a practical joke I: Cutting Florida loose from the United States and watching it float away.

Bart's idea of a practical joke II: Tossing a large tomato at Principal Skinner while he bends over to tie his shoelaces.

Bug's idea of a practical joke II: Putting dynamite in Yosemite Sam's pants.


Bart and his buddies once waged war on the kids of Shelbyville over a lemon tree.

Bugs fought in World War II.

Bart likes to write his name in fresh concrete.

Bugs has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Bugs has worked with animation greats Tex Avery, Chuck Jones and Friz



fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER

teens	preteens
1. Bugs Bunny	1. Bugs Bunny
2. Garfield	2. Tommy Pickles
3. Pinky and the Brain	3. Taz
4. Speedy Gonzales	4. Chuckie Finster
5. Felix the Cat	5. Tweety

Freeleng.

- Bart has worked with Conan O'Brien.
- Bugs Bunny cartoons were the No. 1 short subject in a poll of movie exhibitors for 16 consecutive years.
- "The Simpsons" has never been No. 1 in the Nielsen ratings.
- Bart once wowed his classmates with his talent at ballet.
- Bugs once danced Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen" and Rossini's

"Barber of Seville." And both with Elmer Fudd.

- Bart often gets beat up by Nelson the bully.
- Bugs gets beat up by no one. Not without them paying for it later.
- Bart has nerdy sidekick, Milhouse.
- Bugs has greedy sidekick, Daffy.
- Bart almost lead his pee-wee football team to disaster when made quarterback.
- Bugs beat the Gashouse Goons at baseball without any other teammates.
- Bugs starred in a major motion picture with Michael Jordan.
- Bart stars in Butterfinger commercials.
- Bart won an Emmy.
- Bugs won an Academy Award.
- Don't have a cow, Bart, but when it comes to deciding who's the best cartoon character, the kids know best.

Kids select mathematics as favorite school subject

Elementary, high school students find numbers fascinating

By Jim Rygelski
Staff writer

I've always loved numbers but always hated math class.

That's why it's surprising both grade and high school kids in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards poll picked math as their favorite subject. Maybe they know something I didn't, or at least are doing different things in class than I once did.

Numbers are great. I used 'em all the time and still do.

Like, how many points higher than his career batting average did Mark McGwire hit last season?

Answer: His .299 mark in 1998 was .039 above his career average going into the season and raised that lifetime figure to .264.

And then: If the Cardinals

had continued at the winning percentage they'd had at the end of April, how many games would they have won?

Answer: Their .593 winning percentage (16 wins, 11 losses as of April 30) would have produced 96 wins for the entire 162-game season. That was 13 more than they really won but would still have put them six games behind division champion Houston.

That's practical, fun stuff, which we never did in class.

Things we did in math class, especially in high school algebra, were boring. Like A over B times C divided by D plus E squared minus F.

Substitute 2 for A, 3 for B, 6 for C, 1.6 for D, 4 for E, 107 for F and you get minus 88.5.

Sure, that's what you need to know to get your ship to the moon, but they didn't explain

that to us then. We figured out all kinds of complex thermodynamic problems, but I never knew that.

It was always just a bunch of numbers in some theorem, and I always had trouble with the theoretical. Tell me how much money I'd get for cleaning the garage and I'd be able to determine if it was enough to buy a soda or two at the corner confectionery.

Now, it seems, kids are learning to do calculations more within the practical context of their lives. Question: If Joe gets \$2 for keeping his room clean every week and wants to buy a home video copy of a favorite movie that costs \$12.99, how many weeks does he have to keep his room clean?

Answer: Technically, 6.495, but probably too many in a


practical sense. He'd do better to ask grandma for an advance against either his birthday or Christmas gifts.

Even when I was a kid there was a debate about how to teach math. I learned before the so-called new math came along, and thought I was lucky to have missed it.

But my fascination for numbers, particularly when it applied to baseball and money, has always been there. Still is.

I marvel at the rare clerk who can count back change as when I've handed her a \$20 bill for a \$12.43 purchase and she says, while counting, "Twelve forty-three, forty-five (two pennies dropped in the hand), fifty (a nickel), seventy-five (a quarter) thirteen (another quarter), fourteen (a buck) fifteen (another buck) said twenty (a five)."

And I marvel at the rare Cardinals team that can continue a .593 winning percent-



fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

teens	preteens
1. math	1. math
2. history	2. science
3. English	3. art
4. science	4. spelling
5. P.E.	5. P.E.

age throughout the year, usually good enough for a pennant, especially in the days in which there were only eight teams and everyone played everyone else the same number of times (11 at home and

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Ally, Rugrats top television show list

Teens like Boston lawyer, while children prefer band of little tykes

By Greg Uptain
Staff writer

Voiceovers, flashbacks and fantasy sequences.

No, we're not making a reference to the 1970s, but rather to the hit Fox television show "Ally McBeal."

It is the favorite choice among teenagers in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards. The favorite television show among children is "Rugrats," the animated cartoon on the Nickelodeon cable network.

The choice of Ally is a curious one, with the sometimes adult content of the show. But, then again, that is probably the big draw for adolescents.

The show is centered around the title character, played by Calista Flockhart.

The choice of Ally is a curious one, with the sometimes adult content of the show. But, then again, that is probably the big draw for adolescents.

An accomplished Broadway actress. She is a young woman who many teenage girls look up to.

The show has a somewhat magical feel to it. We get

**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE TV SHOW

<p>teens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ally McBeal 2. Dawson's Creek 3. Friends 4. Buffy the Vampire Slayer 5. Seinfeld 	<p>preteens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rugrats 2. Sister, Sister 3. The Simpsons 4. Arthur 5. Barney
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insight into Ally's innermost thoughts, via the aforementioned voiceovers, flashbacks and fantasy sequences. The viewer gets to see and hear what Ally is thinking about a certain situation she is facing.

That makes for an interesting scenario for the audience, who would probably like to see and feel what others were thinking, too.

Ally's interaction with co-workers at her Boston law firm is what helps qualify this hour-long show as a comedy, rather than a drama.

The fact that she has to work with ex-boyfriend Billy Alan Thomas and the fact that Ally turned out to be friends with Billy's new wife, Georgia, makes for some highly tense, often comical moments.

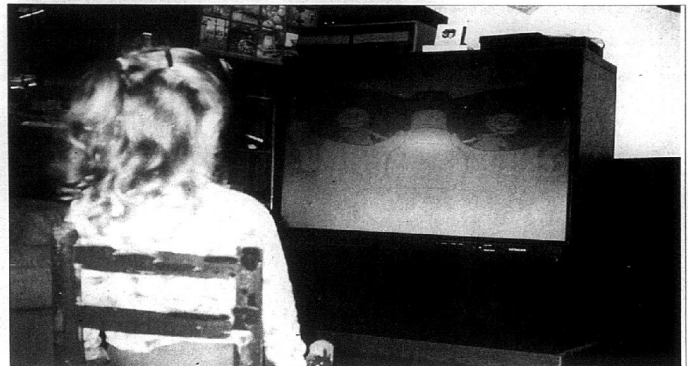
Ally and Billy's relation-

ship, starting from "playing doctor" at age 7, to acting out those impulses as adults, is one of the focal points of "Ally McBeal."

A quirky side twist to the show is the appearance of Vonda Shepard as a lounge singer. Shepard is a personal friend of the show's producer David E. Kelley.

Shepard signed up to do the show's theme song, "Searchin' My Soul" and ended up being a semi-regular. The song went on to become Shepard's first top 15 hit.

The appeal of "Ally McBeal" to teens, I believe, is that it offers a romantic love triangle, a rich fantasy life and a contemporary look at the drama and anxiety of real-life office situations. That is something the teens can gossip about at school the next



Greg Uptain photo
Kristen Dehner, 4, of Bridgeton, watches one of her favorite shows, Nickelodeon's "Rugrats." The show is the favorite among her peers, as well.

morning. The "Rugrats" phenomenon, meanwhile, is alive and well among children.

Youngsters across the nation fixate their eyes on the TV set when diaper dandies Tommy, Chuckie, Angelica, Susie, and identical twins Phil and Lil appear before them.

Kids relate to the show because the children, none of whom are over the age of 3, talk in a way that grown-ups just don't understand. They see things that grown-ups don't see like the backyard is huge and clowns are scary.

Tommy is the undisputed leader of the group, taking the Rugrats on all sorts of adventures.

Tommy is the type who loves adventure, uttering his famous phrase "A baby's gotta do what a baby's gotta do." He's got that special kind of charm that works on both babies and grown-ups.

He really has no leadership strategy, but rather a knack for pinpointing a problem, getting everyone's opinion and then fearlessly taking charge.

Fearless is not a word to describe Chuckie, who is afraid of almost everything. He is the voice of caution, advising the group to stay away from some of its adventures.

The Rugrats spend most of their time doing battle with Tommy's 3-year-old cousin,

Angelica. She believes babies are meant to be picked on, tricked and lied to.

Angelica usually gets away with her antics because of her ability to be a good actor in front of her aunt and uncle, Stu and Didi.

The show has hit such a wide appeal that it has spawned "Rugrats: The Movie," which hits theaters nationwide tomorrow Nov. 20.

The appeal of "Rugrats" to children is pretty simple. It is a cartoon the kids can really relate to, unlike the crudeness of cartoons like "King of the Hill" or "Beavis and Butt-head" or the adult-like content of "South Park" or "The Simpsons."

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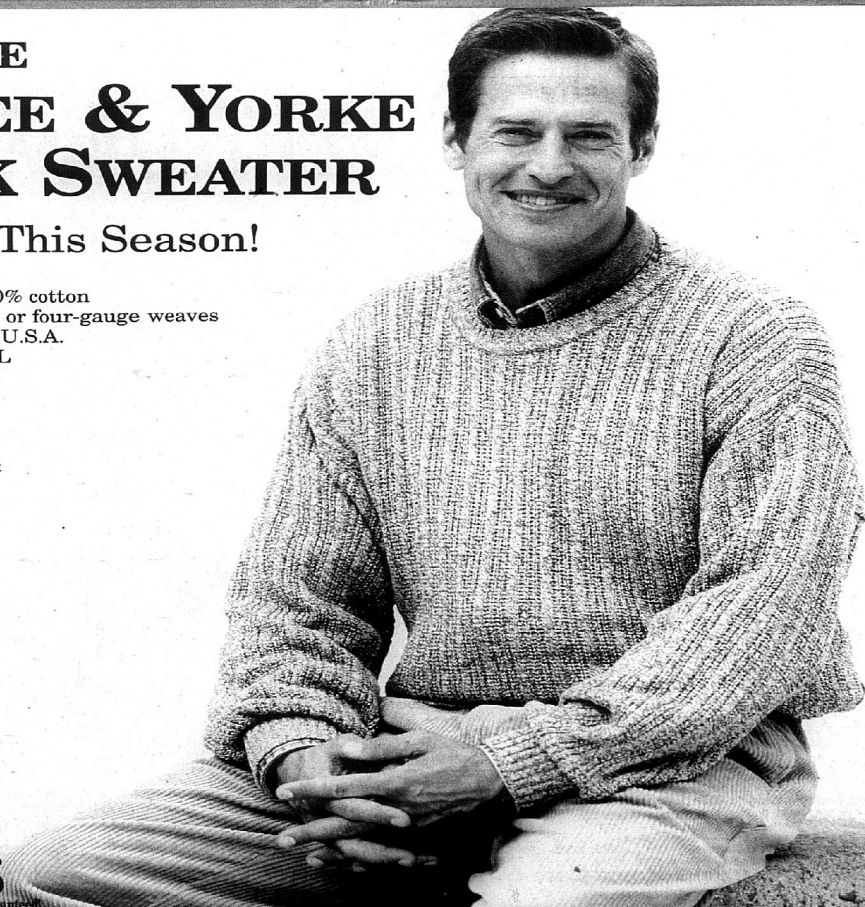
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Children dream of life on stage, in classroom

Parents' may envision careers of a different nature

By Jim Merkel
Staff writer

In front of me is a copy of a 1963 feature story from the old St. Louis Globe-Democrat, in which my dad talks about the history and future of a family piano business going back to 1838.

Deep in the story's text are a couple of paragraphs worth mentioning in this article 35 years later, on what pretenses and teens want to be when they grow up.

In the McDonald Children's Choice Awards survey, most of the pretenses want to be teachers, followed by doctors, pro athletes, then veterinarians and finally policemen. Teens, the survey found, most often wanted to be actors and actresses, followed by singers, pro athletes and doctors.

My dad's first choice, if the

Globe-Democrat article got it right, was for my brother and me to be piano men, as were all Merckels going back at least to my great-great-grandfather.

"Mr. Merkel hopes that next in line to carry on the family tradition will be his two sons, 12 (me) and 15. To prepare them, he is carrying out a training program including piano lessons, technical experience in the Merkel shop, at least two years of college engineering and two years of apprenticeship in German and Austrian piano factories where they will gain 'standards of excellence,'" the article said.

"When they come back, they'll be good, capable fledgling piano men," the article quoted my dad as saying.

I have no doubt my dad would have loved to see my brother and me continue in

the family business. But he was hardly one to push this on us. He told me at least once it was up to me to decide what I wanted to be when I grew up.

As it was, my big brother Charles continued the tradition, and is tuning pianos in St. Louis homes as Merckels before him have done for 140 years.

Myself, I wound up in the news biz when I grew up, which I don't think Dad minded too much. I have no ability in anything that involves working with the hands, something that anyone who touches the insides of a piano must have.

After a morning apprenticeship in one of their piano factories, those masters in Germany or Austria would have put me on a plane back to America in the afternoon. And it would have taken just a

bit longer for me to flunk out of engineering school.


Yes, I did take a few piano lessons, and can pick out a simple tune on a keyboard. But I never followed it up.

And I did make extra money in the Merkel shop, but probably just got in the way of the people who really knew what they were doing.

My Dad knew all about my limited abilities in the things a piano man needed, by the time I started saying I wanted to be a journalist. And he supported that ambition, even if it meant there was one less person around to carry on the family business.

Today, thanks in part to my Dad's support, I'm contented in that profession, even while I bemoan the low pay. I'm not so sure I'd have been as happy had I gone on to be a better-compensated piano man.

Eventually, I may decide to do something that pays better. But I doubt if it'll have any-



fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO BE

teens	preteens
1. actress	1. teacher
2. actor	2. doctor
3. singer	3. pro athlete
4. pro athlete	4. veterinarian
5. doctor	5. police officer

thing to do with the music business.

Parents might notice an aptitude in a child early, and seek to nurture it. They might try to encourage their youngsters to go into a certain career. Certainly, they should do whatever they must to

ensure their kids are getting the best grades they can, and as much schooling as they can.

But it's up to the children themselves to follow the path best for them, and take it where it leads when they grow up.

JJK's concern for community, kids outdistance accomplishments

By Kevin Carbery
Staff writer

Those who have been fortunate enough to see Jackie Joyner-Kersey perform track and field feats know what a special athlete she is.


But, those who have heard her speak about important social issues, particularly ones concerning children, realize she is even a better person than she is an athlete.

With this in mind, it is no surprise that Joyner-Kersey has been selected as the McDonald's Children's Choice Award Winner in the category of favorite female athlete.

Joyner-Kersey was born in 1962 in East St. Louis, Ill. She was a high school All-America in basketball and track. Her skills earned her an athletic scholarship to UCLA, where

she was a four-year starter in hoops and a star in track and field. She set college records in the long jump with a leap of

22-11" and in the pentathlon, an athletic competition in which contestants test their skills in five separate events.



fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE FEMALE ATHLETE

teens	preteens
1. Jackie Joyner-Kersey	1. Jackie Joyner-Kersey
2. Dominique Moceanu	2. Dominique Moceanu
3. Mia Hamm	3. Tara Lipinski
4. Sheryl Swope	4. Kristi Yamaguchi
5. Lisa Leslie	5. Florence Griffith-Joyner

She was the NCAA pentathlon champion in 1982 and 1983.

She participated in her first Olympics in 1984 in Los Angeles. That year, she was only five points short of the gold medal in the heptathlon, a competition of seven events. Still, her performance gained her the silver medal.

Although the track commu-

nity knew all about her beforehand, it was at the 1988

Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, that Joyner-Kersey made a name for herself to the world. She won gold in the long jump and also in the heptathlon.

The heptathlon's events of the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200-meter run,

long jump, javelin and 800-meter run are taxing for anyone who tries them, but, Joyner-Kersey completed the competition with a world record of 7,291 points.

In her last Olympics in 1996 in Atlanta, Joyner-Kersey fought through injuries to win one more medal, a bronze in the long jump.

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Guy, Florida duo win disc jockey honor

By Neil Schoenherr
Staff writer

7:45 a.m. The alarm goes off. "What? Is it morning already? I thought I just went to bed," I think to myself. I drag myself out of bed and make my way to the bathroom. I splash some water on my face and try to wake up. After putting on a tie and eating some cereal, I go out to the car and head off to work, still a bit groggy.

I turn on the radio, looking for something to make me laugh, to wake me up.

Working in morning radio must be pretty tough. Morning DJ's really aren't allowed to have a bad day. It's their job to keep the mindless, caffeine-deprived zombies like myself smiling on the way to work.

It must be hard to come up with ideas every morning. I know I am not at all humorous at that time in the a.m.

Sure there are tougher jobs out there. But a morning DJ provides a wake-up call, humor on the commute, fodder for afternoon conversation in the luncheon or around the water cooler, as well as

keeping us all informed on what is happening in the world.

The majority of morning DJ's are like late-night talk show hosts. They don't seem to last very long. It's hard to obtain longevity in the industry.

But longevity doesn't seem to be an issue for Guy Phillips, the winner of the McDonald's Children's Charities Award for best local radio personality in the pre-teen category. He has been the morning host at 98FM for almost 20 years.

When I told Phillips he had won, for his show "Phillips and Co.," he said he was very flattered. "I am wheeled. It is always a personal triumph to accept an award for which you have no idea you have been nominated. I will maintain its integrity throughout the year until I pass it on to the next winner," he said.

He said the main point of his show is to keep people laughing. "The show is interactive. There is a lot of audience participation. Nothing is funnier than hearing the everyday experiences of people," he said.

**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE RADIO PERSONALITY

<p>teens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MJ & BJ 2. Steve & DC 3. Bo Mathews 4. Guy Phillips 5. Jack Buck 	<p>preteens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guy Phillips 2. MJ & BJ 3. Steve & DC 4. Jack Buck 5. Bo Mathews
---	--

Phillips said the demographic for his show is 25- to 44-year-old women but kids feel comfortable with him as well. "I can communicate on their level," he said.

Z107.7 FM DJ's MJ and BJ, voted favorite local radio personality in the teenage category, don't discuss many local St. Louis area events. In fact, they are not even local. They

broadcast out of Tampa, Fla. "They are energetic. They wake you up before school. They are funny and interesting. They definitely have the best morning show," said 14-year-old Jessica Moore of Manchester.

Z107.7 program director Jeff Tanner described the show as the "David Letterman" of morning radio. "MJ and BJ are kind of a late



Z107.7 FM DJ's MJ and BJ, voted favorite local radio personality in the teenage category.

show in the morning. Anything goes but they are not degrading," he said.

The show originates in Tampa. Tanner said MJ and BJ were actually number two among 12- to 17-year-olds in the St. Louis area in the summer 1998 Arbitron ratings.

MJ in an interview from Tampa. "Only the teens listened to us in Tampa five years ago. Now we are the number-one morning show. We offer St. Louis something completely new and different from other morning shows. Our content is cutting edge," said MJ.

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A chip off the old potato — or is it?

Favorite snack comes in many forms these days

By Scott Hickey
Staff writer

When the munchies hit, both teens and pre-teens agree, it's "Hello, Mr. Chips." Chips were by far the most favorite snack in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards.

All those Saturday morning public service announcements touting the snacking virtues of fruits and vegetables were drowned out by the crunching of chips, both corn and potato. Later nature, bring on the greasy preservatives.

A quick dip in the chippy waters of the local grocery store, and the mind boggles at all the chip choices.

Fried, air-puffed and baked. Sour cream and onion, salt and vinegar, barbecue, spicy salsa and cool ranch. And don't forget the cheese — nacho, cheddar, cheese and

bacon and extra cheesy.

While potato and corn chips are the runaway favorites in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards, there are a few less popular chip alternatives. The salty goodness of a pretzel — both twisted or rod — cannot be overlooked.

And right next to the pretzel in the hierarchy of chipdom are popcorn, pork rinds and Funyuns.

Funyuns, the best kept secret of the chip aisle, are a deep-fried crispy ring (exactly what they're made of, I'm not sure) and are covered with a generous protective coating of faux-onion powder.

Scientists are still working to unlock the secrets contained within the enigma that is the Funyun.

And despite the scientific focus heaped upon the chip, the great Funyun secrets continue to elude civilization.



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CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE SNACK FOOD

teens	preteens
1. chips	1. chips
2. snack cakes	2. cookies
3. cookies	3. ice cream
4. crackers	4. popcorn
5. fruit	5. fruit

In certain underground circles of snack connoisseurs, rumors buzz about a secret thinktank in the works.

Spice and herb experts are being called in to help peel back the layers of mystery.

According to rumors floating around in Internet chat rooms, seven herb and spice experts plan to meet later this month at a secret location to study the Funyun phenomenon.

Sources say bitter rivals

within the sweet and the salty wings of the snack community are pooling their resources to tap the awesome power locked within a bag of Funyuns.

But cold calculating science has failed the snack community before as complex issues such as Dorito breath still linger heavy in the air.

And will society ever be whole until a cure is found for the orange residue left behind from digging in a bag of Cheetos?



107.7 station wins ears of teens, preteens

By Frank Gluck
Staff writer

Both teenagers and pre-teens seem to share the same music tastes this year, with both groups selecting St. Louis Top 40 radio's "Z 107.7" (KSLZ-FM) as their number-one station in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards.

This is somewhat surprising because Z107.7 celebrated its first anniversary in St. Louis only last month.

"I think the music itself appeals to a large audience. We're like MTV on the radio."

Jeff Tanner

Z107.7
promotions director

The station, owned by media conglomerate JACOR Broadcasting, switched places with MAJIK108 — now MAJIK 105 — recently.

JACOR owns such diverse St. Louis radio stations such as MAJIK 105, Gospel 1600 AM, 93.7 KSD and KLOU.

According to promotion types at Z107.7, the station fills the "Top-40 void" left by the departure of Q104 (WKBB).

"Z107.7 is a contemporary hits radio station targeting 12 to 34-year-old adults with a current mix of Top 40 music and entertaining personalities."

That according to Jeff Tanner, promotions director

for Z107.7. Tanner also hosts the 10 a.m. to noon show.

The station features music from Alanis Morissette, Third Eye Blind, Janet Jackson, Sheryl Crow and Aerosmith (nothing before 1990).

"I think the music itself appeals to a large audience," Tanner said. "We're like MTV on the radio."

The ratings seem to bear that statement out. The station is ranked No. 2 in total listeners between the ages of 12 to 44 according to the latest summer Arbitron ratings, Tanner said.

"Our audience is more than teenagers and pre-teens," Tanner said. "More of

our numbers might be coming from the low end (of the age scale), but we attract a broad audience and different age groups. It always starts with the younger audiences. They're the ones who usually pick up on the Top 40 stations before anyone else."

Tanner also mentioned an article appearing in USA Today the week after Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris'

record of 61 home-runs in a season.

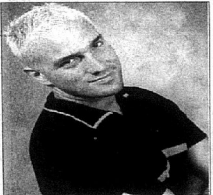
"Mark McGwire stated he had his radio tuned to 107.7 FM on his way to the airport after hitting record-breaking home run number 62, making Z 107.7 Mark McGwire's favorite radio station," Tanner said.

Well, who knows. Anything's possible. No confirmation yet from Big Mac

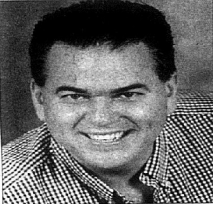
on that claim.

Z 107.7 features the following daily lineup:

- 6 to 10 a.m.: MJ & BJ
- 10 a.m. to noon: Jeff "JT" Tanner
- Noon to 3 p.m.: Rich Stevens
- 3 to 7 p.m.: Boomer
- 7 p.m. to midnight: Danny Wright



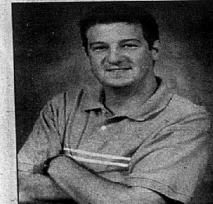
Danny Wright




Rich Stevens



Tammy Holland



Jeff Tanner



**fourth annual
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CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE RADIO STATION

teens	preteens
1. Z107	1. Z107
2. MAJIK105	2. 93.7
3. 93.7	3. WIL
4. KLOU103	4. MAJIK105
5. KIX106.5	5. KIX 106.5

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Baseball, soccer top lists of sports to play



By Justin R. Lopinot
Staff writer

Playing sports at a youth was always more memorable than school.

I can clearly recall events like playing goalie in a soccer game as a second grader, trying to untangle my arms from the net as a pack of 20 kids swarmed towards me like a pack of bees. Dad was yelling something to me from the sideline just as the hood from my red sweatshirt fell over my eyes, obstructing my view. Needless to say, the other team scored and I never played goalie again for the rest of my soccer-playing career.

As clear as that memory is, I can't, for the life of me, remember the word that helped me clinch the class spelling bee championship in fifth grade.

Playing baseball always created special memories for me, too.

In ninth grade, I stole third base, ripping my knee in the process. I should have went to the emergency room and had the bloody thing stitched up, but I didn't want to sit out the rest of the baseball season. I instead continued hustling each game, tearing the cut back open fairly consistently for the next several months.

On the other hand, that same year I would miss school at the first sign of "not feeling well."

Soccer and basketball emerged as the favorite sports to play in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards.

Basketball was never a sport that I excelled at, but I still played. Who can forget the time I was sitting on the bench and ... nevermind, I sat the bench most of the time. If I did get in, I would usually just run around, as my coach would say, "like a chicken with its head cut off."

The only softball I played as a pre-teen and teenager was in gym class, which I'm proud to say is the class I had the most credits in at high school graduation. My fondest memories of school (95 percent of the total) revolve around this course.

My best softball moment is hard to decide. As a high school senior, I hit a line drive over the fence that went into the window of a car. Coach and the man in the car exchanged words as I circled the bases. In third grade, I scooped up a ground ball and fired the rubber softball off the nose-picker's head, much to the amusement of my judgmental classmates.

Volleyball was another gym class sport. Unfortunately, my clearest memory was not a real posi-

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CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE SPORT TO PLAY

teens 1. soccer 2. basketball 3. baseball 4. softball 5. volleyball	preteens 1. baseball 2. soccer 3. hockey 4. basketball 5. volleyball
---	--

tive experience. I was in sixth grade and the class voted for the all-star team. They were to play the teachers in a charity game after school. Bryan said, "I'll vote for you if you vote for me." It turned out that he said that to a lot of kids — later that week Bryan was starting for the all-stars and I was at home watching reruns of "Family Ties."

Playing roller hockey as a teenager, I mostly remember stitches, bruises and chasing the puck when it would sail past the net into a field or down the street. I played on ice, too. I remember getting smoked at high school tryouts, wearing a San Jose Sharks jersey that was way too small. It's kind of sad, yet very true, that nearly all my childhood memories revolve around some sort of sporting event, but who could blame me? I guess what I'm getting at is that sports created special memories that I will always carry with me — science projects and reading groups just left me craving a soccer ball and my sweat-stained, red sweatshirt.

Brad Wilson photo
CBC senior Derek Meyers is captain on the prep school's soccer team.

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Cards have had plenty of aces Kid picks featured in today's edition

Continued from Page 1A

Since I played catcher on my school teams, I particularly followed the career of Cardinals backstop Ted Simmons, who was one of the best hitters in the majors in the 1970s. I was thrilled when I got to meet him during an appearance at a local bank.

A neat part of being a baseball fan is that you can learn to appreciate your team's history, particularly if you follow a squad that has been as successful as the Cardinals. St. Louis has won nine World Series championships, the most of any National League team and more than every other franchise except the New York Yankees.

The Redbirds have produced many individual champions in batting average, stolen bases, fielding percentage, pitching wins, strikeouts and earned-run average.

The team has not had many home runs champions, but, as you know, McGwire brought the single-season home run record to the

Gateway City this summer when he hit 70 four-baggers. That broke the team record by 27, a huge amount. He created excitement every time he stepped to the plate and hit the ball over the wall at an incredible rate. We were truly fortunate to have the opportunity to see him play at Busch Stadium.

A source of pride for many Cardinals fans is the legacy of hard-nosed, gritty baseball played by the Gashouse Gang, which is one of the many nicknames given to the Birds over the years. What it means is that our guys are willing to slide head-first into bases, dive after sinking line drives and never give up. A true Cardinal finishes a game with a dirty, sweaty uniform and the knowledge that he gave his best on the field.

There are a few things all St. Louis baseball fans should know about the history of the team.

The Cardinal franchise was organized in 1892.

It was not until 1926 that the Cards won their first World Series, beating the Yankees and Babe Ruth in

seven games. The best player on the Cardinals in the 1920s was second baseman Rogers Hornsby, who won the Triple Crown (leading the league in batting average, homers and runs batted in) in 1922 and 1925. He is considered to be one of the greatest hitters ever in the Major Leagues.

The 1934 team was the one that earned the Gashouse Gang nickname. The squad of rowdy, fun-loving players was led by Dizzy Dean, a tremendous pitcher. Colorful men such as Pepper Martin, Joe Medwick and Leo Durocher gave fits to player-manager Frankie Frisch, but they went on to win the World Series over Detroit.

In the 1940s, the Redbirds had their best run of success. They won the World Series in 1942, 1944 and 1946 with such players as Stan "The Man" Musial, Enos Slaughter, Marty Marion and the Cooper brothers, Mort and Walker. There are two statues honoring Musial outside of Busch Stadium and, if you ever read about all the records he set, you will understand why.

Two more World Series

championships came in the 1960s. Those teams were led by Gibson, Brock, Ken Boyer, Bill White, Orlando Cepeda, Roger Maris and Curt Flood and were known for their pitching and fielding.

The last World Series title won by St. Louis was in 1982, when Jojo Jimenez, George Hendrick, Bruce Sutter, Lonnie Smith and Keith Hernandez whipped Milwaukee. The team went on to win National League pennants in 1985 and 1987 with Ozzie Smith, John Tudor, Willie McGee, Jack Clark and Vince Coleman playing major roles. Whitey Herzog managed all the 1980s squads to their achievements.

The Cards won a division title in 1996 as Ray Lankford, Brian Jordan, Ron Gant and Andy and Alan Benes had a strong season.

As you go to the ballpark to see the Birds in the next few years, keep in mind that you are watching a special team. It is a privilege to be able to wear your red and root, root, root for the Cardinals.

Continued from Page 1A

weeping and gnashing of teeth that accompany a homework assignment filled with long division or algebraic equations, both age groups selected math as their favorite subject at school.

Maybe they could figure the odds on that.

Cleaning their room and doing the dishes lead the list of least favorite chores for both teens and pre-teens, and among the list of candy remained steady, a concoction called Warheads broke into the top 5.

If you're a baseball fan, and one that relishes a game of catch in the backyard with your son or daughter, it will encourage you to know that baseball was selected as the favorite sport to play among the younger set, while both teens and pre-teens selected America's favorite pastime as the favorite sport to watch. Big Mac said this to have saved baseball this

year as he chased the home run record. It looks like he's also spurred a renewed interest in the game among St. Louis kids.

As you page through today's Old Newsboys Day edition of the Suburban Journals, take a look at the music and singers selected by the kids. It's a safe bet the winners here will be among the most honored at the Grammy Awards and other music awards shows next year.

As always, proceeds from the sale of today's Old Newsboys Day edition are used to benefit more than 250 local children's charities, resulting in help for an estimated 10,000 kids each year. One hundred percent of every dollar collected from the sale of the papers goes into the Old Newsboys Day fund. Since the program began, nearly \$6 million has been raised that has helped an estimated 500,000 children.

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P315/75R15/4	100	P315/75R15/4	100
P335/75R15/4	100	P335/75R15/4	100
P355/75R15/4	100	P355/75R15/4	100
P375/75R15/4	100	P375/75R15/4	100
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P415/75R15/4	100	P415/75R15/4	100
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P475/75R15/4	100	P475/75R15/4	100
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P245/75R15	\$89	P245/65R15	\$90
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P245/75R15	WW 91	P245/65R15	BLK 90
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P335/75R15/4	100	P335/75R15/4	100
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P375/75R15/4	100	P375/75R15/4	100
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P695/75R15/4	100	P695/75R15/4	100
P715/75R15/4	100	P715/75R15/4	100
P735/75R15/4	100	P735/75R15/4	100
P755/75R15/4	100	P755/75R15/4	100
P775/75R15/4	100	P775/75R15/4	100
P795/75R15/4	100	P795/75R15/4	100
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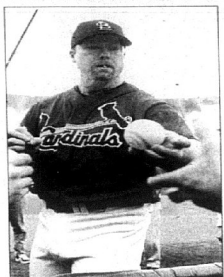
Mac's the main man for fans

Continued from Page 1A

Parents and kids both were wowed by the sheer spectacle of the 70-homer season. Never seen anything like it. Never expect to see it again. There it goes into the bleachers, into the upper deck, into the Mississippi River. Each home run higher, further, better, more than the last one. He won games and hearts. It was hehehe, fun at the old ball park.

Spectacle aside, it's hard to tell if adults and kids came to see Big Mac as one for the ages for the same reasons. Probably not.

An informal survey of the sounds coming from the back seat of the car says kids see the Cardinals' slug-ging first baseman in a couple different ways. Running neck-and-neck as the Nos. 1 and 2 reasons he rates with their faves are: 1. He's awesome. 2. He's cool. Coming in behind - far behind - those apparently all-inclusive hosannas were: He's a great hitter. He's a great dad, and he was on David Letterman. Coming from a group that's supposed to say the darnedest things, those are fairly economic ways to wrap up the man who put on the most-watched, most-reported, most-talked-about show in town during the last year and maybe during the last, what, 10 years? Twenty years? Longer? Though they are a bit sparing, the descriptions seem on the mark. Even Moms



Rick Graefe photo
Mark McGwire signs autographs for fans.

and Dads who have long since given up the ghost on cool and awesome have to grant that McGwire is both of those. There has been a great deal of talk about heroes in the wake of McGwire's monster year. All of the talk is by adults who have grown weary of the antics of Latrell Sprewell and Dennis Rodman. We are impatient with the money, greed, strikes, lockouts and arbitration hearings. Adults are disinterested in trash talk and in-your-face antics. In other words weary, impatient, and disinterested

in sports in the '90s. Moms and Dads, not nearly as concerned with awesome and cool as their kids, see McGwire as the answer to all that's gone sour lately. He is the Boy Scout handbook come to life and endowed with fore-arms the size of Utah. He hugs his kid and waves to his dad. On the biggest night of his life, he jumps into the stands to share a moment with Roger Maris' family. The moon shots into the upper deck are almost secondary to everything else McGwire brings to town.

It's interesting that McGwire is one of the few places - in some cases, maybe the only one - where kids' and adults' lists of awesome things bump into one another. Think about it: Adults like Mark McGwire, the safety of T-bills, low-maintenance/high-mileage cars, chicken without the skin, interstate highways where none of the lanes are closed for repair. Republicans/Democrats/None of the above, check books that balance and naps. Kids have a different list. They like Mark McGwire, Christmas, macaroni and cheese, the most gawd-awful skin, the ever did hear, Halloween and the last day of school. We're not exactly on the same page most of the time. Mark McGwire, though, is someone we share. A favorite of all. And an all-time favorite.



Monopolizing board game market

Teens and preteens again picked Monopoly as their favorite board game in this year's McDonald's Kids Choice Awards.

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Brian, Craig, Lyndsey, Amber, Jacque and Adam. Thank You for making our life exciting, hectic, rewarding, nervous, and very happy. You're the best. Glenn, Diane.

Dear Janelle, We just wanted to let you know that we think you are really something special. A real shining star! Love, Mom and Dad.

Spencer Roy, You're the best because you always try your best. You do your best in school, in sports, and to help other people. We love you!

Robert Stewart, Robbie is part of me and everything he does seems to be what I would always want to be. He is so loving. Love, Dad

Rick, Christy, Jason, Caroline, You're our best. We've been through a lot but Dad and I will always be there for you. We Love You All, Mom & Dad

Kasey Bernier, To the most special son a father could ever have! "Your the Best!" Your smile, heart, and person give me a smile and greatest joy!

To Andrew Day, The best son that God ever made! We are very proud of you. We love you. God bless you always. Mom, Dad.

Holly Hughes, A free spirit & inspiration! Loving, joyful, compassionate, smart, & beauty inside & out! You're our shining star! We're very proud of you! Love, Mommy and Daddy

Collin, Marissa, and Elise, We sure do love you up to the moon and back! You are so special to us! Love, Mommy and Daddy

Jessica and Ami Marshall, Just wanted to say Thank You and I Love You. We'll get through this together. Lv 4-ever. Your Mom, Dawn

Dear Jacob Michael Lee, You're the sunshine in my life! I love you with all my heart and soul. You're the best son! Love, Mommy

Keith, We thank God for giving us the best son in the whole wide world. You bring us joy and happiness. Love Mom and Dad.

Ashley Anderson, You are a beautiful and intelligent young lady that I am proud to call my daughter. I love you. Continue to trust God. Love Mommie, Pat Murphy

Carl Washington, You have a compassionate heart for people. You also

show potentials of a great entrepreneur. I am proud of you. I love you so much. Love Mommie, Pat Murphy

Dominique Murphy, You are my miracle child. You helped to fulfill my life. Your level of intelligence is awesome. I love you so much. Love Mommie, Pat Murphy.

Zack Harris, We love you very much. You are the best boy in the world to us. You make us proud and happy.

Allie Harris, We love you very much. You have always been a beautiful gift to us. You make us proud and happy.

Washington Park Emergency Organization Inc., Salutes Hey Kids. You're the Best on Old Newsboys Day. God Bless the children. W.P.E.O. sponsors children's programs.

Kammie, Colbie, and Tom Qualls III, I Love my Grand Children Kammie, Colbie, and Tom Qualls III. I salute them on Old Newsboys Day. God Bless Them. Tom Qualls, Sr.

To Dorion Taylor, Grandson, I Love You! You're special, you're obedient, ambitious, fun, & loving. Be successful. Praise God. Your braces make you more handsome. (Smile.) Love, Granny

Bryan Ondercho, A movie pal, a yard sale shopping companion, an artist whose pictures enrich the house, a friend, a buddy. Son, you're the BEST. Love, Mom.

Ryan, You are my Best Buddy! Not just my kid, but a friend. I hope it will always be that way. Thanks. Your Dad, "Gonzon"

Krista, You're the best! B for Beautiful, E for Exceptional, S for Sweet, T for Talented. We love you so very much! Mommy & Daddy

Tommy, You're the best! B for Bright, E for Entertaining, S for So Cool, T for Talented. We love you so very much. Mommy & Daddy

Makeesha Allen & Demeatrice Sherrod, To my adorable, sweet and intelligent daughter Makeesha Allen and my wonderful son Demeatrice Sherrod. You both will always be my favorite people. Love Mom.

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Mom blasts a home run with children

"Big Mac" makes it onto list, too

By Glen Sparks
Staff writer

As much as Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire accomplished in 1998 and as much as he electrified St. Louis, he still couldn't beat Mom.

Among pre-teens, McGwire finished as the second-leading role model. Among teens, the giant of a Cardinals first base-

man took fourth. In both polls, Mom finished first.

Ok, sure, Mom won last year, too. And, actually, Mom wins every year. Her championship reign is about as long and as impressive as the Chicago Bulls'.

But beating "Big Mac" is a big deal, especially after all that happened in St. Louis during the spring and summer

of '98. The 6-foot-5-inch, 260-pound McGwire hit a major league record-breaking 70 home runs, most of them moon shots from home plate to another ZIP code. Even casual baseball fans took an interest.

Busch Stadium sparked as fans took cameras to games and zeroed in on their hero to record his every move.

Big Mac posters hang in children's bedrooms and little leaguers dream of smashing a McGwire-esque clout into the night-time stars. He is the Babe Ruth of his times.

Big Mac might be living in California and resting up for another homer-laden '99 campaign, but he remains the toast of St. Louis.

He's bigger than Ozzie ever was, bigger than Brett Hull ever was and — is this slander? — he might be bigger than Stan the Man ever was.

But it takes more than mammoth, tape-measure, awe-inspiring home runs to overtake Mom as a role model.

And there just might be a logical reason for this: Moms do some special things, too.

After all, did Big Mac ever stick a Band-aid on your

wounded knee, one injured during a tough afternoon at the local playground?

Hug you and wipe away a tear after a favorite pet had gone to "Doggie" or "Kittie" heaven?

And, yes, Big Mac can hit a fastball, a curveball or a slider a mile-and-a-half or so, but did he ever bake a chocolate chip cookies? A cherry pie? Brownies?

For that matter, did Big Mac ever buy you a Big Mac and fries?

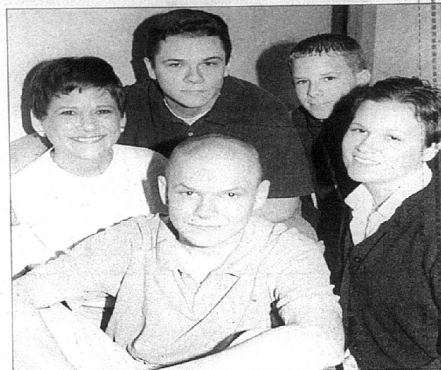
Take a picture of you at the Zoo or on the beach or standing at home plate? Laugh at even your corniest jokes?

Moms do that sorta stuff. They congratulate you for an outstanding report card, for keeping your hands to yourself and for a job well done.

They teach you lessons that will be important for later on, but tell you to not be in such a hurry to grow up.

"That will come," they'll say, but you think it's going to take forever.

And some day you will pass on these very same lessons. It's no wonder Mom finished first in this poll. It probably wasn't even close.



Pam Doepke-Hurd photo

The Mendel children gather around their mother in their Affton home. Moms were chosen as the number one role model in the McDonald Children's Choice awards. Shown are, clockwise from bottom: Chris, 17; Linda (Mom); Wes, 21; Bob, 15; and Megan, 17. Not shown is Nicole, 23.

McDonald's **fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS**

WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

teens	preteens
1. Mom	1. Mom
2. parents	2. Mark McGwire
3. Dad	3. Dad
4. Mark McGwire	4. sister
5. Michael Jordan	5. God

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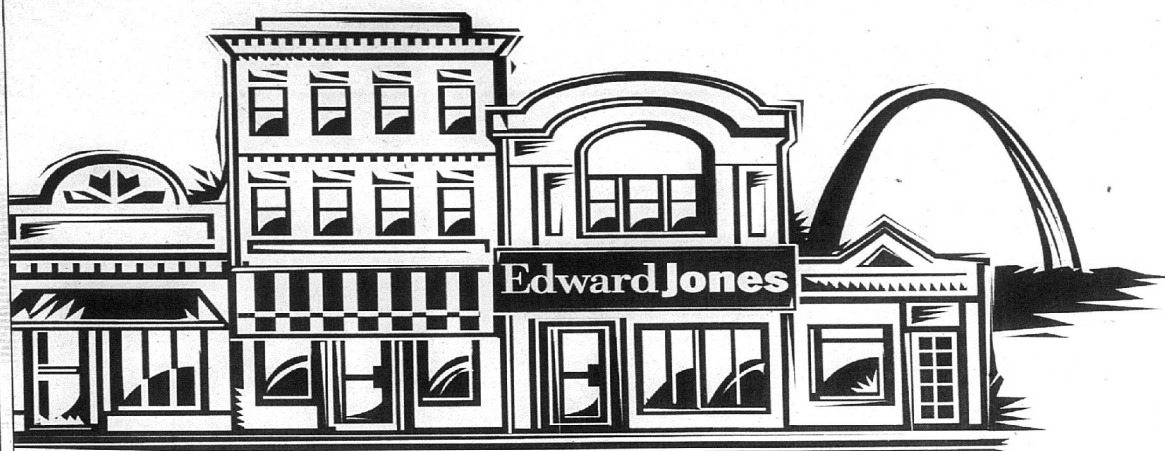
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Mushroom Kingdom long way from Pong

Kids prefer playing computer solitaire or with Mario and Yoshi

By Tracey Bruce
Staff writer

In the beginning, there was Pong. Little did we know then that a floating electronic blip on a green screen marked the entrance into a new virtual world. Video and computer games have added a new dimension to the word play, and kids had their say about the best games in the business with their picks for the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards.

Surprisingly, solitaire tops the list for pre-teens, but then again, the game was a classic for generations even before it became a standard option for personal computers. In fact, there are more varieties of solitaire than all other card games combined, and as far as its electronic counterpart goes, computer solitaire comes in collections with as many as 200 versions of the game.

Solitaire, also called patience, requires no partners and now no cards — a big plus for those of us who are a bit embarrassed to shuffle even when no one else is around. And if you don't have a computer program for solitaire, you can find one to download on the Internet, along with thousands of web sites and hundreds of book listings all about solitaire.

Why do kids like it? The game comes with your personal computer and younger children can play it without too much difficulty, according to my resident expert, Danny Bruce, 12, who has been enlisted to lead us through the intricacies of electronic play.

"You don't have to shuffle the cards or lay it all out, and



Andrew Rotellini, 7, Arnold stops by Video Update on his way home from school to pick up a computer game.

you can't bump the cards and mess it up," he said. "You can get right down to play."

Unfortunately, though, you also can't cheat — a mere minor detail to Journal readers who would never stoop so low. Besides there is certainly something to be said for beating the machine fair and square and watching all those cards fold so sweetly and with such precision. There are few things more satisfying than that.

Unless, of course, it is rescuing Princess Toadstool. Yes, you've got it, probably in one version or another. Leading on the teens' list of games is that ever loving hero Mario.

Super Mario Brothers for the Nintendo Entertainment System was released in 1985, according to my expert who is younger than the Bros. Mario.

The game was one of a type called platform games because the character jumped from one platform to another through levels of increasing difficulty, Danny said.

The goal was to rescue Princess Toadstool from Bowser, King of the Koopas, whom had kidnapped the fair maiden and carried her away into his dark kingdom.

Between Mario's entrance into the strange new world, however, and his rescue of the princess in level eight, Mario faces poison mushrooms, spinys, and Koopa troops.

Mario's first vision of the strange world, but it was just a dim shadow of future Mushroom Kingdoms to come.

Subsequent Mario games included Mario 2, that took players deep into Mario's dream and allowed them to choose from a variety of characters, Danny said. Next came Mario 3 and it had unprecedented success.

"Mario 3 sold over 8 million copies and introduced the Koopa Kids — Bowser's offspring," Danny said.

Then there was the Mario All Stars, the first game made for Super Nintendo.

"It included Mario 1, 2, and

3 and the Lost Levels of Mario 1, a Japanese version of Mario that wasn't released in America," Danny said.

It took Super Mario World, though, to produce a character as well loved as the must-tatched man himself.

"Super Mario World introduced Yoshi. He is usually green and looks like a dinosaur. It gave Mario another character he could ride," Danny said. "Yoshi could also shoot flames and fly."

By this time of course, our adult players have fallen far behind. It was all they could do to squash mushrooms much less soar through the sky on a flame shooting dinosaur, and yet the greatest challenge lie ahead.

In 1996, Nintendo 64, affectionately known as N64, made its debut with Super Mario 64. Adventures in the Mushroom Kingdom were never the same again.

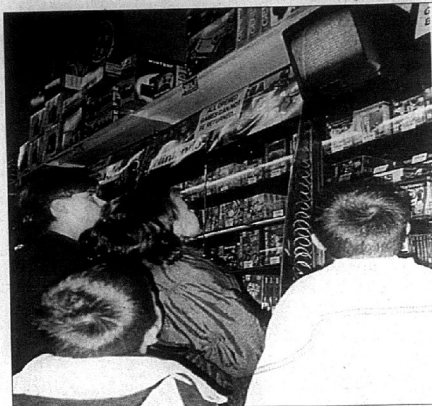
Suddenly, Mario's world becomes three dimensional. The player can take on the character's viewpoint and walk, swim, or fly through the world with Mario.

"You can change all the camera angles and look at the sky or the ground, Danny said. "You can't have his eye view but you can follow right behind him."

There are now 15 courses in the game and Bowser is bigger than ever. So, after hours and hours of play, I guess you have to ask, is winning really worth it?

"Sure," Danny said.

"Mario gets to fly around with



Seth Watkins, 11, Sara Watkins 11, Brennan Sowa, and Nick Watkins, 10, all of Arnold preview a computer game at Wal-Mart.

Princess Toadstool, and she bakes him a cake."

No wonder we have such trouble getting kids to do their homework, and Bowser will be back.

Two more Mario games will be coming out in the future — Super Mario RPG 2 (role playing game) and Super Mario 64 2.

McDonald's fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE VIDEO/COMPUTER GAME

teens

1. Solitaire
2. Mario Bros.
3. You Don't Know Jack
4. Donkey Kong
5. Mortal Kombat

preteens

1. Mario Bros.
2. Sonic the Hedgehog
3. 3-D Pinball
4. Oregon Trail
5. Mortal Kombat

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Yo quiero the little dog, youngsters say

Taco Bell finds hit with Chihuahua

By Michelle Kowalski
Staff writer

We've all seen them: the Taco Bell commercials with the Spanish-speaking chihuahua who only wants Taco Bell food (and usually gets it, we assume), the dog with special Taco Bell radar who seems to show up everywhere, the cute little pointy eared, big-eyed bundle of joy we simply can't get enough of.

I first noticed the commercial during the Godzilla promotion when the little doggie was trying to "catch" Godzilla with a rope, a cardboard box and Taco Bell treats, while chanting, "Here I leezard, leezard, leezard..." It became a funny phrase for my husband and I to repeat around the house whenever we were looking for something.

I suppose I paid extra special attention to the commercials because my husband absolutely loves Taco Bell. He claims he can eat it three meals a day, seven days a week (his favorite is bean burritos with sour cream) and not get sick of it.

It was no surprise when both teen and pre-teens voted



The Taco Bell chihuahua emerged as this year's favorite commercials with teenagers.

Taco Bell commercials as their favorites for the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards. Their target market, or core consumer, is predominantly 10-

to 34-year-old men. The creative advertisers who created the campaign describe the chihuahua, who is nameless in the commercials,

as a 19-year-old male trapped in a dog's body, and all he thinks about is Taco Bell (and sometimes girls). His one and only passion, they said, is Taco Bell.

"This chihuahua phenomenon is like a hero everybody seems to love," said Laurie Gannon, spokeswoman for Taco Bell.

The chihuahua phenomenon was actually a bit of an accident.

Taco Bell already had a national campaign planned. However, two creative advertisers, Chuck and Clay, for Taco Bell's ad agency were eating lunch at a Mexican restaurant in Venice, Calif., and they saw a chihuahua make a bee-line toward them, Gannon said. They thought it would be a great commercial. (Obviously, they were right.)

So they hustled to find the perfect chihuahua to represent the company. The ad agency, TBWA Chiat Day, contacted a source in Hollywood that specializes in trained animals. There was no contest when they saw Gidget, an almost four-year-old female dog who Gannon describes as a confident looking dog, with beautiful coloring and big bulging eyes. Gidget had "the look."

They also conducted a talent search for the voice of the dog. The search yielded funny-man



**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE TV COMMERCIAL

teens

1. Taco Bell
2. McDonalds
3. Mountain Dew
4. Advantex
5. Pepsi

preteens

1. Taco Bell
2. McDonalds
3. Jack-in-the-Box
4. Hardees
5. Pepsi

Carlos Alazraqui, a stand-up comedian whose voice has been featured on Nickelodeon shows "Rocko's Modern Life" and "Real Monsters." Alazraqui has also been on "America's Funniest People."

Around April or May 1997, the chihuahua idea was pitched, and by July a commercial aired regionally in the northeast United States. It was so popular that Taco Bell aired the commercial nationally on Dec. 28, 1997.

"You can't really plan for

something to be popular," Gannon said. "You know you have a big hit when consumers tell you it's popular. People love to tell us about it."

As long as consumers continue to enjoy the commercials, they plan to air them. In fact, another commercial is in the works and may be aired within a few months.

"It's a very exciting time," Gannon said. "What teens have done for us has made the chihuahua a great brand icon for Taco Bell."

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Reading is FUN-damental

Teens say they enjoy a good book

By Clementine Barton
Staff writer

Reading really can provide some knock-your-socks-off entertainment.

When asked what gives them an rush if a rollicking game of hockey or kickball is out of the question, the majority of teens who responded to the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards survey concurred settling down with their favorite reading materials definitely puts some wind in their sails for favorite non-sports activity.

As pleasantly surprising as those results may be and as difficult as they may seem to adults, parents should overcome their astonishment in rapid fashion. After all, from the moment children make their appearance in the world, the majority of mothers and fathers begin instilling in their offspring a fondness for the printed word.

Parents introduce their

McDonald's
fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS
FAVORITE NON-SPORTS THING TO DO

<p>teens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. read 2. use computer 3. shopping 4. watch TV 5. do artwork 	<p>preteens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. play video games 2. play with friends 3. watch TV 4. draw 5. ride bike
---	--

youngsters, for example, to stories that depict delightful fairy tale lands inhabited by cuddly creatures. Then they accompany their little ones as they move to books that further stimulate that ever-increasing curiosity and present more complex themes that relay positive messages as well as subtle suggestions for dealing with life in the world that surrounds them.

Why would anxious-to-please children select to forsake such a gratifying enter-

prise, especially since it is sanctioned by those individuals who mean the most?

On the other hand, teenagers who responded to the survey agreed that more than anything else, when they're not playing sports, they enjoy straightening up their rooms.

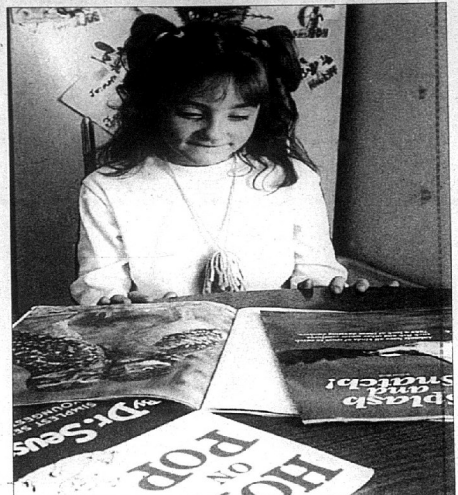
Just kidding. Revved up for a revolution and supercharged with the energy to pursue just about any venture that excludes parents yet hesitant to stray too

far off the course their mothers and fathers have charted for them, teens polled conceded watching videos and playing video games are two pastimes that never fail to entertain them.

Bearing in mind that young adults tend to be budding socialites, however, whether teens actually focus their attention on the amusements or if those activities simply offer an opportunity for get-togethers with chums is up in the air.

Stephanie Woodard, 17, a student at Festus Senior High School, said she has no idea where her peers are coming from. If she cannot get out onto a field or into a gymnasium somewhere, Stephanie said she certainly never chooses to watch a video in lieu of hobnobbing with her closest pals.

"That's not one of my favorite activities," Woodard said. "I have tons of community activities and things I do for school and I like to just hang out. I'd rather just talk to my friends because when we get movies we always end up talking anyway."



Pat Hanes photo

Ashley Kellermann, 7, sits down and enjoys some fine reading.

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'Titanic' unsinkable in movie vote

By Marge Wilson
Staff writer

When I was a Mariner Girl Scout (a senior Scout interested in boats and other subjects to do with water), we had a favorite song we used to sing to a lively hornpipe-like tune.

The subject of the song was the same as the movie voted in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards as the favorite movie of all time by pre-teens and teens.

The song was called "The Good Ship Titanic." It never failed to add a bright spot to whatever activity we Mariners were engaged in - whether it was riding on the Mississippi River in our leader's Chris Craft toward a sand bar for a picnic or holding our meeting in the basement of my church in an ellipse of chairs we pretended was a boat in line with good Mariner Girl Scout ceremony.

We always had a howling good time singing the song about a vessel that later on would be the subject of a blockbuster movie which, incidentally, I have not seen. It might ruin the song.

This is how the song went:

"Oh, they built the ship Titanic
and when they had it
through,

they said they had a ship
that the water would never
go through.

But the good Lord raised
his hand, said that ship would
never land.

Oh, it was sad when that
great ship went down."

Second verse:

"Oh, they were off the
coast of Newfoundland
and headed for the shore,

"Oh, they built the ship Titanic and
when they had it through, they said
they had a ship that the water would
never go through."

lyrics from Mariner Girl Scout song

when the rich refused to
associate with the poor.

They put them down
below where they'd be the
first to go.

It was sad when that
great ship went down."

Third verse:

"They lowered the
lifeboats in that raging, raging
sea

And the band struck up
with "Nearer my God to thee,"

The captain tried the
wire, but the wire was on fire,


Oh, it was sad when that
great ship went down."

My good friend in the Girl

Scout troop would become
upset when we sang the song,
because she said lots of people
had died in the Titanic and we
shouldn't make fun of the
tragedy.

Well, we all paid little
attention to her squeamish-
ness and enjoyed the song for
years and years. Likewise
shall we enjoy the movie.

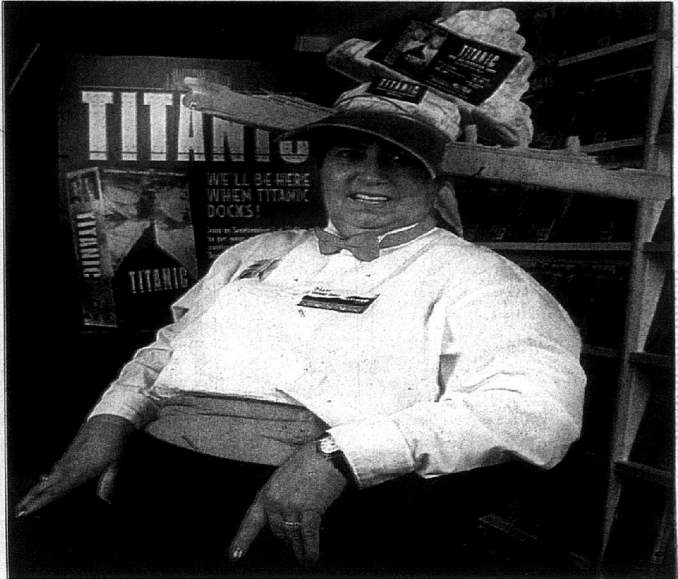
While the story of Titanic is
tragic, it is also a tale of sur-
vival and overcoming hard-
ship. We should not forget the
memory of those who per-
ished, nor the courage of those
who persevered.



**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE MOVIE OF ALL TIME

teens	preteens
1. Titanic	1. Titanic
2. Armageddon	2. Home Alone
3. Good Will Hunting	3. Dr. Doolittle
4. Dirty Dancing	4. Ace Ventura
5. Return of the Jedi	5. Men in Black



Mary Waskom of Hollywood Video in Swansea, Ill., models a hat during the "Titanic" video release.



Tim Nordmann photo

The Hall family of Collinsville takes a recent Saturday morning to explore the magnificence of the Gateway Arch grounds, voted one of the favorite places to visit. Ken and his wife, Joni, show 3-year-old Kate a view of the river from under the Arch.

Shopping Centers, Arch are hot spots

Teens, preteens also enjoy
jaunts to Busch Stadium,
Science Center, Six Flags

By Dan Yount
Staff writer

Arcades, bright stores,
movie theaters, and inexpen-
sive restaurants make St.
Louis' shopping centers the
teen place to be, according
to the McDonald's Children's
Choice Awards.

A ride up the Gateway
Arch on the St. Louis river-
front is the top local attrac-
tion for local preteens
according to the poll.

Teens also told us their
favorite hang outs in the St.
Louis area are Busch
Stadium, Six Flags-St. Louis,
the Gateway Arch, and the
St. Louis Science Center.


As choices two through

five, preteens selected Busch
Stadium, the St. Louis Zoo,
Six Flags-St. Louis, and the
St. Louis Science Center as
the top places in the area to
visit.

Mark McGwire's home
run chase with Sammy Sosa
this past baseball season
drew not only teens and pre-
teens, but record crowds to
the stadium this year, as St.
Louisans hoped to see the
slugger make history.

Six Flags-St. Louis thrives
on teen attendance, and it
wouldn't be summer without
several visits to the
Midwest's premiere amuse-
ment park at Eureka.

Preteens also enjoyed
attending the venue, which



**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE PLACE TO GO IN ST. LOUIS

teens	preteens
1. the mall	1. Gateway Arch
2. Busch Stadium	2. Busch Stadium
3. Six Flags	3. St. Louis Zoo
4. Gateway Arch	4. Six Flags
5. Science Center	5. Science Center

will open a water park next
year that should keep kids
coming by the car loads. A
power slide and a speed slide
are just several of the com-
ing attractions.

The St. Louis Zoo opened
its new Emerson Electric
Children's Zoo earlier this
year, which contributed to
the continuing popularity of
St. Louis' world-class zoo.

The Science Center is
known as the "Playground
for Your Head." Teens and
preteens can view special
features in the OMNIMAX
theater, see special exhibits,
watch a laser light or
Planetarium show, see the
special showing of "Everest,"
or learn about science with
their parents in the
Discovery Room.

Monkey see, monkey like

Tigers, lions are number two

By Allison Woodworth
Staff writer

The monkey is the king of
the zoo as far as teens and
pre-teens are concerned.

Both teenagers and pre-
teenagers who participated in
the McDonald's Children's
Choice Awards selected mon-
keys as their favorite animal
at the zoo.

It may be their eerily
human-like faces or their pro-
clivity to cause mischief that
so attracts humans to watch
monkeys. Whether an organ-
grinder's companion in a hat
and coat, Marcel, the brief
"Friends" cast member; sock
monkeys; Curious George; or
captive zoo creature, monkeys
remain popular animals.

While they might appear
cute and cuddly behind bars,
monkeys are wild animals.
Many types of monkeys may
be seen in zoos or owned as
pets. Spider monkeys, capuchin monkeys, squirrel monkeys, macaque monkeys, guenon monkeys, and marmoset monkeys are the most common types of monkeys that may be procured as pets.

Capuchin monkeys, tradi-
tionally kept as pets in South
America, vary greatly by sub-
species. They include white-
faced, white-fronted, cinnam-
on, weeper, tufted and
black-capped. They are gener-
ally cat-sized, have tails the
length of their bodies and can
live more than 40 years.

Spider monkeys are found
in tropical forests of southern
Mexico, southern Bolivia and
the Mato Grosso in Brazil.
Their bodies range from about
15 to 25 inches in length, while
their prehensile tails are
about 20 to 35 inches. They
are gold, red, buff, brown or
black and weigh 12 to 16
pounds. Their hands are
shaped like hooks, with long,
narrow palms, curved fingers
and no thumb.

Squirrel monkeys are just
10 to 14 inches in length,
weighing 1.5 to 2.5 pounds.
They originally hail from vir-
gin and secondary forests or
cultivated areas in northern
South America to Peru,
Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil.

They are covered in short,
thick, soft and brightly col-
ored fur, commonly white
around the ears, eyes, throat
and the sides of the neck. The
top of the head is usually
black to grayish, the fore-
arms, hands and feet are red-
dish or yellow with shoulders
and hind feet gray.

While many enjoy watching
monkeys in a zoo, monkey
ownership is closer to the
responsibility of having a

See MONKEY, Page 13B



A Golden Lion Tamarin.

Kids like 'em, no matter what they're worth

Beanie Babies are more than mere collectibles

By Clayton Berry
Staff writer

Beanie Babies are big. Don't believe it? Check out the official website of Ty, the company that creates these stuffed critters — and see for yourself. The site registers some 2,219,903,151 hits. For cyber space neophytes, that means people have checked out this site devoted to Beanie Babies more than 2 billion, yes billion, times.

But as the ballots in the 1998 McDonald's Children's Choice Awards would attest, kids know all about Beanie Babies. With hundreds of votes cast, both the preteens and teens selected Princess the Bear as their favorite Beanie

The kids called it the Princess Di. Though Ty doesn't use the beloved Princess of Wales' actual name for the bear, it is providing all of the profits of its sale to her memorial fund.

surprise that Princess beat out other favorites including Wrinkles (a bulldog). Kids probably didn't pick this particular Beanie for its look alone — it's a plain, brown bear with a small white rose on its chest.

No, it's likely both teens and preteens latched on to Diana's unquestioned popularity. That's led to the Beanie being highly collectible.

Though it's book values rank at \$75, there are reports of it selling for \$250 and more. (Remember these are toys that retail for less than \$20 bucks.)

Sure, I would have picked my favorites based on the animals (and their humorous names) themselves, like Loosey the Canadian Goose and Nuts the Squirrel.

But if kids really were only interested in monetary gain, they would have picked the variant Spot without a spot (\$2,800); Quackers, a rare version of the duck without wings (\$3,500); or

A black and white photograph of a woman lying on a bed, smiling, surrounded by a large pile of stuffed animals. The woman is positioned in the upper center of the frame, looking towards the camera. She has dark hair and is wearing a dark top. The bed is covered with a striped sheet, and the background features a patterned pillow and a dark headboard. The stuffed animals are of various types, including teddy bears, a zebra, and other animal figures, creating a dense and cozy scene.

Bongo, the impossible-to-nab monkey with a tan tail with third generation tag and "Bongo" sticker covering the name "Nana" (\$5,200).

There's further proof the ones kids like isn't based merely on the hefty price tag in the resale market. On the survey, they named Beanies like "Puppy," "Froggy," and "Pig." None of these are true monikers for the plush playthings, but that doesn't

Obviously, these kids aren't poring over price guides under the covers with flashlights every night. It's clear Ty wants parents and even adults without kids to get into the act. The company "retires" some Beanies every year, meaning they will never be made again.

This ensures the collectibility of that particular toy.

Other evidence Beanies are hot stuff: a magazine company once dedicated only to comic books is about to produce a monthly circular focused solely on Beanie Babies.

That's not all. Just about every store appears to carry the squishy creatures, no matter how seemingly out of place they seem on their shelves. Beanie giveaways drew droves to the ballparks this summer.

A final tell-tale sign of their popularity is that Beanies face competition from knock-off look-alikes. There's even been a scandal or two concerning confiscated fakers from foreign shores.


This hullabaloo over Beansies resembles that of

past toy giants like Cabbage Patch Dolls. The parental title bouts in the toy aisles are no more, but Cabbage Patch Dolls can still be found at the local toys store. Kids still buy them, take them home and love them, even though they aren't the

enough to change with the times and resilient enough to withstand the whims of children.

Despite all of the attempts to make this the latest craze, it doesn't take away from the fact that kids like Beanie Babies for some very good reasons: They're

In the end, nothing else matters. Still, if anyone wants to give me a Bongo, the impossible-to-nab monkey with a tan tail with third-generation tag and "Bongo" sticker covering the name "Nana," and valued at \$5,200, I wouldn't mind.

 **fourth annual**
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE BEANIE BABY

teens

1. Princess Diana
2. Puppy
3. Froggy
4. Pig
5. Scottie

preteens

1. Princess Diana
2. Daisie
3. Wrinkles
4. Red Rover
5. Inchworm

Aliyah, Celine Dion top charts

By Kelly O'Brien Hugenot
Staff writer

If you walk into a music store today, some of the hottest singers that stand out of the brightly colored mix of CD jackets include Celine Dion, Brandy, Janet Jackson, Shania Twain, Mariah Carey (who also happens to be your favorite female singer in the McDonalds' Children's Choice preteen division), Aaliyah, Mia X, Natalie Imbruglia and Reba McEntire (the favorites for the teen category.)

Every one of these singers has her own unique style, running the gamut from country to rhythm and blues. And for every successful standout in music today, there are dozens of women waiting in the wings for a shot to show-off their music. The fact that they even have the chance to is a testament to how far women have come in the music industry in a very short time.


Back in the '60s, my teenage heyday, you found a pretty narrow choice of female artists on the shelves — a little Diana Ross here, some of the Motown girls there. Rap artists were unheard of. Tripped and true — rhythm and blues singers such as Aretha Franklin could be found, but trying to find a truly unique singer was difficult.

Then came Madonna, Janet Jackson and the Go-Gos.

These three pop sensations helped to open the wide open for female artists. They proved that women could sell records in mass quantities, album after album, and they were everywhere — in the popularity

pan, they're enduring legacy is that an all-female band can make a go of it.

Soon, women were filtering out of the genre into other music categories. Female country singers swept the charts, such as Reba and Trisha Yearwood, and women like Salt-n-Pepa began making inroads into rap. Now you grab a Spice Girls record and listen to songs celebrating "Girl Power." And in 1993, for the first time, an all-female line-up — the Lilith Fair — was the top summer concert ticket. In just 15 years, we've come a long way.



**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE FEMALE SINGER

<i>teens</i>	<i>preteens</i>
1. Aliyah	1. Colline Dion
2. Mila X	2. Sandy
3. Brandy	3. Janet Jackson
4. Natalie Imbruglia	4. Shania Twain
5. Reba McEntire	5. Mariah Carey

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Gym class no fun if it delays lunch

Youngsters rate PE best school activity

By Scott Bandle
Staff writer

When a group of teens and preteens were recently surveyed about their favorite activity at school, guess what they said.

According to the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards, the second through fifth choices for preteens were recess, art, computers and music; the teenagers chose art, field trips, volleyball and music.


And the No. 1 choice for both groups?

Physical education. Good old P.E. Kind of a surprising choice in today's sit-on-your-duff world.

Of course, there has always been a silent code among students never to actually admit to liking any kind of academics.

But P.E. still kind of surprised me.

I will let out a dark secret from my life — I didn't like physical education. Not that I was a poor athlete or was physically uncoordinated. Mainly, I just never thought it was fun.



**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE ACTIVITY AT SCHOOL

teens	preteens
1. P.E.	1. P.E.
2. art	2. recess
3. field trips	3. art
4. volleyball	4. computers
5. music	5. music

My heart always belonged to recess in my preteen years. Recess was civilized anarchy. The nuns would shove us out the door, throw out some dodge balls, bats, softballs, jump ropes and then leave us alone for 30 minutes. If you wanted to play, you could play. If you wanted to stand around and talk, you could stand around and talk.

Recess was very relaxed, very fun, a good time to get some fresh air. Physical education was different. I got my first taste in high school when it was a graded course. The teacher was the head football coach, a stocky, imposing figure with a tight T-shirt, a whistle and a clipboard. That clipboard was his totem,



Don Black photo
Physical education class is always fun when it's outside on a nice day, as these students at Kratz Elementary School in the Ritenour School District demonstrate.

his symbol of power. Each class, he called the roll, got the names, made check marks in his attendance book, then told you the day's workout. It was rarely anything I was interested in. Throughout my life, I've always tried to live by a personal credo — sweat on your own terms. I wasn't interested in trampoline, climbing ropes, tumbling or wrestling. So, he got a half-hearted try from me, at best. Besides, who likes to goof up in front of people? The last thing I needed in my life was hearing, "Hey, Bandle, nice tumbling." If I wanted to roll up in a ball, God would have created me as an armadillo. My other bad memory of high school P.E. was culinary. For three straight years, my physical education class was

held during lunch hour. That put me on third shift for lunch, which means several hundred other people had dibs on food before I could get my share. Imagine following a horde of locusts after it strikes a wheat field. Everything would be gone, everything. Hamburgers, french fries, biscuits, ham sandwiches. The only items left would be meat loaf and chop suey, two high-school cafeteria treats I wouldn't wish on an alley rat. Looking at the survey, I'm willing to wager that most of the pro-P.E. votes came from athletes. Physical education is their turf, the one place to get revenge on the geniuses in classes that made everybody else look bad. You know who I mean. These are the people who

would build a ruby laser beam in physics class for extra credit then complain that they got only 99 on their exams. Instead of 100. These attitudes were just grounds for a dodge ball upside the head. Finally, you've got to wonder just how much physical education goes on. By the time you hear the bell, run to the locker room, change, take part in P.E., go back to the locker room, shower and get going to the next class, you might have a whole, gee, 10 minutes of actual exercise. Maybe, then, it's all just a plot by the teachers to get the kids out of their hair while they get first crack at the cafeteria food. All that trouble for cafeteria food? Now, that may be another story.



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Books create lasting bond

Preteens and teens select vastly different favorites

By Barbara Ponder
Correspondent

When I was a kid, I ran with a crowd through the fields of the imagination. Early on, there were the Bobbsey Twins — Bert and Nan and Freddie and Flossie. Later, there were the Three Investigators — Jupiter Jones, Pete Crenshaw, and Bob Andrews — and, of course,

Nancy Drew. It would have been so easy to keep these childhood friends. I could have stored them in a box crammed in a closet or parked on a dusty shelf in my basement. Instead, I sold my adventurous and innocent buddies for the whopping sum of about \$10 at a garage sale.

If I had those vintage hard-bound mysteries now, they

would be my guilty pleasure. I would turn to them whenever the words fail me or problems seem insurmountable. Squirreled away in my bedroom with a bag of candy, I'd relive their simple escapades and happy endings.

I hope today's young people keep the treasured books of their youth. After all, they've picked some good ones as their favorites in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards.

Preteens selected the popular Goosebumps horror series as their favorite. Teens, showing newfound maturity, recognized the Bible as number one. The number and variety of nominations in the book category warms my soul, both as a reader and a writer, because words compose my very being and always have.

Words snake through me with the blood in my veins. They touch my heart and invigorate my mind. They calm my emotions and inspire my spirituality. Even the most mundane events in my life elicit a "book" memory.



Erin Clark is absorbed in the book she is reading in the library at Willowbrook Elementary School.

fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS
BEST BOOK EVER READ

teens	preteens
1. The Bible	1. Goosebumps
2. V.C. Andrews books	2. Charlotte's Web
3. Goosebumps	3. Green Eggs and Ham
4. Chicken Soup	4. Where the Red Fern Grows
5. Tom Sawyer	5. Animorphs

Driving in rush hour traffic, the smell of a Bi-State bus as it boards a passenger shoos me back in time.

I can see the little girl that I was, waiting for the downtown bus with mom. One hand holds hers. The other clutches a prized patent leather purse containing carefully saved pennies, nickels and dimes.

Traps downtown always included a visit to the book department in Famous Barr, and as the bus meandered

through Northside neighborhoods, my thoughts raced with anticipation. Decisions were tough. Should I blow all my money on one Bobbsey Twin book or opt for two generic mysteries?

Today, I cracked open a new library book and breathed deeply of the timeless aroma of words on paper.

I looked around my living room and saw friends scattered throughout. The smart ones shouted

facts at me from reference books jumbled on my desk. The inspired ones, stacked in baskets, sang to me of everyday courage and extraordinary heroism. The imaginative ones, scattered here and there, lured me with a siren's song of mystery and intrigue.

It's really a wonder I'm able to accomplish anything at all, with so much reading to be done.

Oops. Got to run. I'm late for a lunch date with a thriller.



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Old favorite monopolizes game choice

Monopoly can be more than just pleasant diversion

By Tim Rowden
Staff writer

Now that the holiday season is upon us, it's time to start thinking of revenge — how to get even for those wrongs leveled against us while the smell of last year's Thanksgiving turkey still hung in the air over the dining room table.

I'm thinking, of course, about Monopoly, this year's board game winner in the teen and preteen categories of the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards.

See, my family was not a football family. Rarely would you find my dad and uncles bloated and sated, scattered across the living room furniture watching the Cowboys and the Lions and their yearly foes.

Instead, you were more likely to find the family divided into camps, those who had slipped into a turkey-induced coma from which only the smell of fresh pumpkin pie could arouse them, and the rest of us — the siblings and cousins — who huddled

around the Parker Brothers board game planning one another's demise.

In my family, Monopoly was a blood sport. It was coup plotting and revenge dressed in the guise of familial camaraderie.

As the turkey scraps and pumpkin pie crumbs festered in the sink, it was to Monopoly we turned to assert our superiority and define our personalities.

For some families, the biggest choice in Monopoly is which playing piece to use. "Should I be the cowboy or the sports car? The iron or the dog?"

In my family this superficial posturing — I was always the car — was only a precursor to the more important decision of how to destroy our siblings and cousins. How, indeed, to bankrupt the other players and end the game with the most pieces in your possession.

This is where family bonding paid off. The better you knew your opponents, the more likely you were to guess their strategy.

My sister the shopaholic always purchased Boardwalk and Park Place. She couldn't resist the glitter and shine of the high-rent district.

Even though she knew the chances of another player landing on either of them was 40 to 1, she would purchase the first blue block she landed on — Boardwalk for \$400, Park Place for \$350 — and immediately begin building.

A hotel on Park Place commanded \$1,500 rent. On Boardwalk the rent jumped to \$2,000.

This was her strategy. She would wait.

Knowing the chances of your landing on her property and having enough money left over to make it around the board in one piece were almost non-existent, she would wait, like a banker, to foreclose on all you held dear.

Mine was a more subtle approach. I bought low and built large, purchasing everything from Mediterranean Avenue to Connecticut Avenue, from "Go" to "Jail," and immediately put up hotels.

I was, for all intents and purposes, a slum lord.

Baltic Avenue, which sold for a mere \$60, commanded \$450 rent with a hotel. Connecticut, which sold for \$120, commanded \$600.

The Reading Railroad commanded \$25 to \$200, depending on how many other railroads you owned. I tried to own them all.

My strategy on the way around the board was to buy at least one lot of every color I landed on. This allowed me to prevent any emergent monopolies from taking hold and armed me for the future.

If another player couldn't pay their debts, I would gladly take the remaining pieces for their monopoly. Never mind worrying about a temporary mortgage; I wanted it

all.

Should I find myself in similar circumstances, I would gladly trade off one of the less well-to-do properties, but nothing large enough to put me in future danger.

For instance, I would never give up a utility, where the rent is four to 10 times the amount shown on the dice, but I might give up Ventnor Avenue, where no one ever seemed to land, just so long as the player in question didn't already hold Atlantic Avenue and Marvin Gardens.


This strategy could play against you if the game went long, when the cousins would grow restless and combine their properties in a team effort to destroy your empire.

Now that my sister have our own families, such team efforts are all but inevitable. She with her husband. Me with my wife. Then

there are the cousins, and Mom and Dad.

I'm telling you, it's not pretty. When it happens, my strategy is to unleash the children, distracting my sister with my 8-week-old so she won't notice I've landed on Boardwalk.

Or, better yet, unleash her own 6-month-old to go crawling across the board, toppling the housing developments and hotels, drooling on chance and Free Parking, and making off with the top hat token before power crawling into the kitchen, where Grandma wants to know if anyone wants more coffee. Happy holidays.



**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE BOARD GAME

teens	preteens
1. Monopoly	1. Monopoly
2. checkers	2. checkers
3. Life	3. Sorry
4. Clue	4. Clue
5. Trivial Pursuit	5. Candyland

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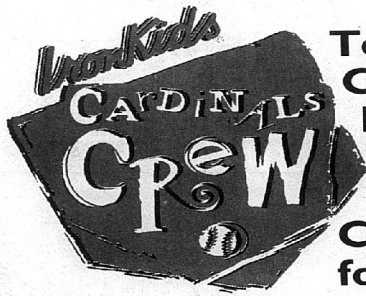
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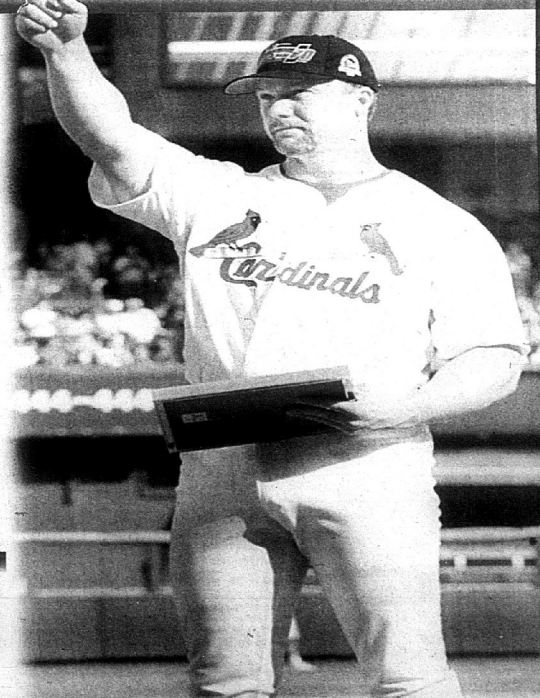


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Home-cookin' fantasies: Just a wish

Meals from scratch, baking with kids squash old-fashioned dreams

By LaRita Marie Heet
Correspondent

When I heard the results of this year's McDonald's Children's Choice Awards, I immediately considered my own family. Responses to the question "What is your favorite home-cooked meal?" were broad. "Chicken," said the

majority of the teenagers, while pre-teens chose pizza as their favorite meal.

Looking for some variety, I asked my 5-year-old, Alex, for her favorite home-cooked meal. "Macaroni and cheese," was her response. I was unnaturally pleased that she didn't cite her favorite meal of all time - a McDonald's Happy Meal - but

then I realized that her selection hardly involved more "home cooking" than a Happy Meal. It was enough to give me pause.

Macaroni and cheese, KRAFT Macaroni and Cheese, that is. Not even made-from-scratch (however you'd do that, which I can't imagine) but just box-dinner-powdered-cheese macaroni and cheese.

A dubiously home-cooked meal. I wasn't always such a non-cooker, though. In my pre-journalism, pre-deadlines, pre-running-around-like-a-chicken-with-my-head-cut-off days, I would slave over a hot stove for my husband and me. Often, I'd think how great it would be when my child (or children) could sit alongside

me, helping me wash vegetables or set the table.

One of my biggest pre-children fantasies was of the days when my children and I would bake Christmas cookies together.

Then, I had kids. In my oh-so-naïve mind, I'd failed to consider the actual implications of cooking with a child. Here's an equation for you: What do you get when you cross a 2-year-old with a jar of multi-colored sprinkles? I'll give you a hint: It's not a relaxed, carefree bonding mother/daughter moment.

When Alex was barely 2, she started helping me bake cookies. On the plus side, she's now 5, and can virtually make them alone, with the exception of the actual baking aspect. On the

not-so-plus side, Alex's baby sister, Sarah, is now 2, and she wants to help, too.

Understand, a 2-year-old's version of "helping" is a bit different from yours and mine. "Helping" to a 2-year-old, actually means, "helping myself" to the ingredients. Sarah is content to stir and dump cups of flour, but the moment the chocolate chips are opened, she is possessed by the evil "Terrible Two" monster, who immediately begins shoveling in the chips faster than I can say, "Why did I think this was a good idea, again?"

When the time comes that I empty the now-half-eaten bag of chocolate chips into the bowl, she screams as if I've just thrown Barney to the wolves. "Those are mine!" I try to explain to her that chocolate chip cookies are called that because of the chocolate chips, but she'll have no part of such lame rationalizations. She stomps away, muttering, "You're a mean mommy. I tell my daddy on you."

Decorating sugar cookies with the girls is even more of a challenge. Only a 2-year-old has the determination necessary to empty an entire jar of sprinkles on a single one-inch-by-one-inch cookie, and then attempt to eat

it. This 2-year-old would also be the same one who has no concept of the long-term psychological effects on a mom who has to find those little colored balls in every crevice of the house for the next five years.

So, why do I keep doing it? Isn't it obvious? It's fun. Sort of. And, it's a tradition. My Gramma and Grampa baked with me, my Aunt Marilyn baked with me, my Mom baked with me. Of course, I'm going to do it with my daughters. Besides, in a few short years, they're going to be too busy with their friends to help me, or worse, they'll actually be "good" at decorating cookies. Already, I can hear it in Alex's voice, as she cautions her sister, "Not too many sprinkles, Sarah. There. That's good."

What will I do with my time, if I'm not sweeping up sprinkles and wiping flour from every surface in a 10-block radius?

Maybe I'll go back to the old days, cooking for myself, and wishing for some 2- and 5-year-olds to bake cookies with me. And, by the time I have grandchildren, I'll have forgotten the mess and the sprinkles, and will remember only the chocolatey smiles and little-girl giggles.

Which is, after all, what makes it all worthwhile.



Rachel Heet, 11, cooks a pot of spaghetti for dinner. Spaghetti ranked in the top five home-cooked meals for both teens and preteens. Rachel is the daughter of Jim and Christine Heet.

McDonald's

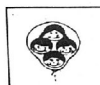
**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE HOME COOKED MEAL

teens	preteens
1. chicken	1. pizza
2. beef	2. spaghetti
3. lasagna	3. beef
4. spaghetti	4. macaroni & cheese
5. pizza	5. tacos

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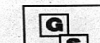
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Jim Carrey keeps the audiences laughing

Comic wins top honors in kids' poll

By Val McDowell
Staff writer

My great uncle George and his wife Elsie were well known Vaudeville comics. They traveled the country frequently, hobnobbing at times with others in the business, doing sets that have been compared to George Burns and Gracie Allen. Life on the road as a comic in those days was hard, but the many notebooks George left behind leaves one with the impression it was the only way the couple wanted to live. They traveled light. I understand. Since early childhood, Mom has kept a solid oak

trunk they used as they ventured from town to town, performing live at various shows. One of George's favorite possessions, now stored in that trunk, was a faded Western Union Telegraph from one of his era's most popular comics, W.C. Fields. George and Fields were not close friends, just casual acquaintances who from time to time shared communications and tales of life on the road. Fields had a reputation for underappreciating children, you might say. One wonders if Fields were beginning his movie career today, how it would fare since many business

decisions in the entertainment industry are driven by children.

The McDonald's Children's Choice Awards poll shows today's favorite comic is Jim Carrey. He rates as the No. 1 comic in both the preteen and teenage categories.

Carrey and Fields have two very separate comic techniques. Fields is stoic, leathargic and reserved. The energetic Carrey is well known for a rubbery face that stretches and contorts without bounds to reveal any emotion crossing his mind.

Carrey has built a successful career on his animated and childlike behavior. Chances are Carrey and Fields may not make compatible friends, but they could have played well off each other in a movie.

Imagine Fields with Carrey as the prosecuting attorney or judge in the hit "Liar Liar."

Fields also could have done well as Carrey's protegee in "Dumb and Dumber" a few years ago.

He might well also have

been the TV programmer responsible for all Carrey's mishaps in the film that might earn him an academy award nomination, "The Truman Show."

It's easy to see how some of Carrey's early work has appealed to youngsters. It basically consists of slapstick comedy that allowed the artist to stretch his imagination as well as his face.

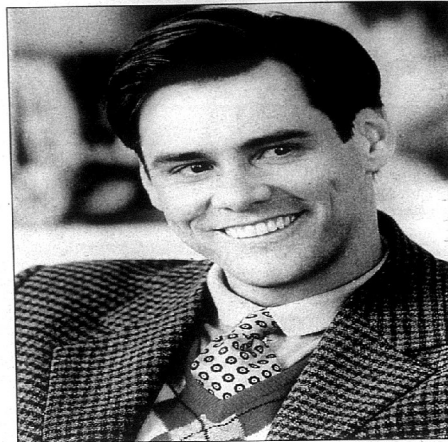
Not only is Carrey a favorite among today's teenagers, he is also one of the highest paid actors in Hollywood history.

a favorite among today's teenagers, he is also one of the highest paid actors in Hollywood history.

To do "Cable Guy," Carrey was paid \$21 million, the highest any entertainer had earned to that point.

His salary has driven up salary demands of other box office stars who feel they deserve greater fees for what they do. Eventually the increased salaries will turn up in higher fees at the box office.

Carrey's success is a testament to his strong will and confidence. He has said on occasion that one of the things that kept him going when comedy was stiff and he was unknown was a phony million dollar check made to himself that he car-



Comedian Jim Carrey causes big laughs — and brings in the big bucks with his movies.

ried in his wallet every day. It reminded him of his goal, he has said.

If today's youth can learn from Carrey's example, he

has earned his solid reputation as one of today's greatest comics, perhaps someday becoming as legendary as W.C. Fields.

fourth annual McDonald's CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS FAVORITE COMEDIAN

teens

1. Jim Carrey
2. Jerry Seinfeld
3. Chris Rock
4. Rosie O'Donnell
5. Adam Sandler

preteens

1. Jim Carrey
2. Robin Williams
3. Eddie Murphy
4. Jerry Seinfeld
5. Chris Farley



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Usher tops list of teens' favorite male singers

Garth Brooks comes out No. 1 for the preteens

By Corey Butler
Staff writer

What does superstar recording artist, songwriter, movie producer, and

Grammy Award-winning co-president of LaFace Records Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds have in common with Sean "Puffy" Combs (chief executive officer of

Bad Boy Entertainment) and award-winning producer-performer Teddy Riley?

Each has lent his expertise of the music business to the young "king of hip-hop soul," Usher Raymond. Eighteen-year-old Raymond is known by millions of hip-hop listeners all over the country simply as "Usher," a name that has grown to be as much of a staple as his graceful dance style, powerful voice, and charming smile. For the sake of count-

less young girls and boys who adore the teenage sensation, we'll stick to his stage name, Usher.

Usher is currently number four on the Music Daily Top 100 Artists Requested List, mainly due to the success of his hit single "My Way." "My Way" is also the title of Usher's second album, which is one of the top-selling albums of any kind in America.

Usher did more than just voice opinion about the production of "My Way," he also added his words by co-writing six of the album's nine tracks.

His superstardom in the music world has caused him to be chosen as the favorite male singer among teens and preteens in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards, out-doing rap artist Will Smith, who came in second.

Usher was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., and was raised by his mother, a church choir director. Usher started singing in church under the direction of his mother (who is currently his manager). At age 12, Usher's mom moved him and his younger brother to Atlanta. It was in Atlanta that Usher was discovered by a representative of LaFace Records while performing in a local talent show, and was asked to audition for the label (co-president of LaFace Records). Usher was signed by LaFace Records and began recording his debut album.

L.A. Reid called Usher the ultimate entertainer and said there hasn't been an artist who promoted so much excitement in many years. Reid's comments hold true on and off the stage.

Usher has won the praises of adults and kids alike with his portrayal of a positive image of America's youth. He has involved himself in several community activities, including serving as the national spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Get Big On Safety" campaign. Usher participated in

the NBA Stay in School program and performed at several franchisees' jamborees, entertaining students while showing them the importance of education. He has also made appearances on the Oprah Winfrey show and the American Music Awards. Usher has graciously lent his talents to many different projects. In 1995 he taped a national jingle for Coca-Cola USA for the holiday season. He joined with several other star artists to record the gold single "You Will Know," which was featured on the soundtrack of the movie "Jason's Lyric."

"My Way" is just another step on the ladder of Usher's steadily growing, phenomenal career. He has made guest appearances on a number of television shows and is considering an acting career. It comes as no surprise that teens and preteens can relate to and enjoy the silky smooth sounds of their generation's version of Michael Jackson. Even though Usher has a very mature persona, his music would definitely be rated G for general audiences. Parents will be pleased to know that the young ones have been falling in love with a performer who was raised in a religious surrounding by a mom who shares the values of most American parents. After all, with some of the hard-core, X-rated lyrics made available to kids nowadays, Usher's peaceful style and demeanor is refreshing to see.



fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE MALE SINGER

teens	preteens
1. Usher	1. Garth Brooks
2. Will Smith	2. Will Smith
3. Steve Tyler	3. Putt Daddy
4. Garth Brooks	4. Usher
5. Tupac Shakur	5. John Mellencamp



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OLD NEWSBOYS

Fund for Children

Into The Next Millennium



Photo by Rick Graefe
Children like Zach of The Edgewood Children's Center are the worthy beneficiaries of fund drives like Old Newsboys Day, chaired this year by Karen Carroll of KMOX-AM (1120)

By Stephanie Clear
Staff writer

Imagine growing up without anyone to care for you, or with being physically, mentally and/or sexually abused by the parents in charge of you.

It's not the kind of loving and supportive beginning children deserve, but it is exactly the kind of horror some children endure.

Edgewood Children's Center in Webster Groves steps in to offer hope for children who are victims of neglect and abuse.

Edgewood is the "place to come and heal," said Nancy Koenig, communications coordinator.

"These are some of the most severely afflicted children; their lives are in total disarray, and their spirits are broken," Koenig said. "We seek to rehabilitate, educate and prevent further abuse."

It is the "second chance" that gives Karen Carroll, vice president and general manager of KMOX-AM (1120), a heart for Edgewood, she said. Carroll is chairperson of this year's Old Newsboys Day fund drive.

"Most of us remember a childhood filled with memories of happy times and a loving family," Carroll said. "Unfortunately, this is not the case for thousands of children in our community who encounter abuse or neglect."

"Many of these children have lost their ability to trust and are emotionally troubled. Through Edgewood, these children begin to put their lives back together."

Edgewood, which also has programs at the Salvation Army Hope Center in Soulard and the Childhaven agency in the Central West End, began in 1884 as an orphanage for children of families moving through St. Louis during the Westward Expansion. Many parents died of cholera after arriving in the city.

A group of women from local churches started "The St. Louis Association of Ladies for the

★ **Chairman's Charity**

Fair beginnings don't come to all kids

Edgewood offers a second chance

Relief of Orphan Children" in downtown St. Louis. In 1880, the agency was moved to Webster Groves and called "The St. Louis Protestant Orphan Asylum." There, the facility cared for many children whose families were destroyed by the Civil War.

It wasn't until the 1940s that the name - chosen by the children - was changed to Edgewood, because of the woods along the fringes of the property.

Today, the focus is on the special education needs of these severely disturbed children, Koenig said.

Day treatment is offered at the Webster Groves campus, as well as at the other two facilities, for some 110 children, and in Webster, there are another 60 children who are in the residential treatment program.

A staff of about 200 full- and part-time child-care professionals care for the children - ages 3 through 17 in day treatment and 5 through 17 in residential care.

Funding comes from the United Way, state aid, local school districts and charitable contributions, Koenig said.

Edgewood is in the midst of a \$4 million capital campaign to build new residential units, school additions and renovations, and a new facility for research and development. About 70 percent of the funds have been received, and construction could begin as early as spring, Koenig said.

To help, call Edgewood at 968-2060.

Old tradition is updated for the future

Old Newsboys Day is a simple idea, really. Create a special edition of the newspaper, sell it on street corners throughout St. Louis and use the proceeds to help the children of St. Louis.

For 42 years the concept has worked well, but as those who help organize Old Newsboys Day each year can attest, it's not simple.

Duncan Bauman, the venerable publisher of the St. Louis Globe Democrat, started Old Newsboys Day in 1957 as a way to provide some badly needed help for the myriad of charities that do good works for children in the St. Louis area. The idea was an immediate hit and a new tradition was born.

Each year, hundreds of old newsboys and newsgirls take to the streets and hand passing motorists for a dollar or more. It usually is a chilly, even downright cold, November morning. But the red-cheeked "cold" newsboy volunteers always receive a warm reception from the St. Louis area public. Attired in the customary Old Newsboys Day apron, the newsboys-for-a-day would gleefully fill the apron pockets with dollar bills and assorted loose change.

Over the years, the proceeds from those aprons, volunteered pockets and sales have passed \$5 million. It has allowed the Old Newsboys Day fund to assist hundreds of children's charities in St. Louis, many with their own special needs.

It was 1988 that the Suburban Journals assumed stewardship of the Old Newsboys Day project following the demise of the Globe-Democrat. In recent years the scope of Old Newsboys Day has grown, some years involving 7,000 volunteers, 700 street corners and 300,000 copies of special editions of the Suburban Journal. Carrying on a tradition of an annual labor of love for those at the Journal who are involved in planning and executing Old Newsboys Day, recent years have pointed out a disturbing trend that threatened the viability of that tradition.

The chief culprit is the weather. For decades it always has been assumed that cold, gusty winds would blow hardest at dawn on Old Newsboys Day. Street corner salesmen would be bundled in several layers of winter wear, braving the



Photo by Rick Graefe

NEWSBOYS DAY

Children's Charities Millennium

dition
ted
future



Ted Wetterau



Karen Carroll



Tom Rice

really, the chilly streets to sell a few newspapers. So, yes, it's always been cold, as most November mornings are. But the Old Newsboys Day volunteers persevered.

The rain, however, is another story. Motorists who would roll down their windows to purchase a newspaper on a chilly morning, were loathe to do so in a driving rain. As a result, newspaper sales were down. And since every dollar collected on Old Newsboys Day is passed on to children's charities, there have been fewer funds to allocate for shoes, books, recreational equipment, diapers and the other items that local agencies desperately need.

Why not change the date to the summer? It's been considered. But Old Newsboys Day always has been seen as the kickoff to the holiday season.

There also is another reason for the tenuous future for the Old Newsboys Day program. Increasingly, local municipalities are banning street corner solicitations within their city limits. And while the laws usually are aimed at prohibiting the week-in, week-out street corner fund-raising by numerous groups, the once-a-year Old Newsboys Day fund drive has become a victim of the municipal laws.

The prohibitions prevent Old Newsboys Day volunteers from selling newspapers in large areas of West County, North County and Illinois, as well as almost all of St. Charles County. So, regardless of the time of year for Old Newsboys Day, the number of street corners available for newspaper sales is dwindling.

Enter Ted Wetterau, the 1997 Old Newsboys Day chairman and tireless advocate of St. Louis' children's charities. Wetterau had a vision for a new way to raise funds for the children of St. Louis. He would brainstorm ideas for raising money while on the road last year to various radio and television stations where he would publicize Old Newsboys Day and urge St. Louisans to help.

Those brainstorming sessions turned into reality this year as Wetterau's vision for Old Newsboys Day began to be realized. It is the kind of vision that will serve local children well and lead the Old Newsboys Day project into the new millennium.

Wetterau is president of the Old Newsboys Day board, consisting of several past chairmen of the event. Together, and under Wetterau's relentless guidance, corporate St. Louis was asked to actively jump on the Old Newsboys Day bandwagon.

This year, Wetterau has recruited Anheuser-Busch, Emerson Electric, NationsBank, Emerson Electric, Mercantile Bank and Edward Jones. All are major supporters of Old Newsboys Day. In addition, A.G. Edwards, Monsanto, McDonald's, Maritz, Southwestern Bell, General American Life, Wehrenberg Theatres and Laclede Gas are typically, though Wetterau is not satisfied. He likely won't rest until every major St. Louis company is in the fold.

In addition, Westfield shopping centers also joined the fund raising effort by adopting Old Newsboys Day as the beneficiary of the company's annual "Westfield Works Wonders" campaign. On Nov. 15, the five St. Louis area Westfield shopping centers - Mid Rivers Mall, Northwest Plaza, West County Center, Crestwood Plaza and South County Center - provided special discounts, entertainment, free gift wrapping, free food and Santa, entertainment and refreshments for shoppers who paid a \$5 admission fee.

All of the money collected went into the Old Newsboys Day fund.

Other alternatives to street corner sales are the many retail businesses who will sell the special Old Newsboys Day newspapers, including Shop 'n' Save stores, Schnucks Markets, Walgreens, NationsBank and Taco Bell restaurants. Old Newsboys Day takes to the skies this year as Mercantile Bank volunteers distribute the newspaper to travelers on TWA flights from St. Louis.

This year, KMOX Radio sportscaster Jack Buck is the Old Newsboys Day honorary chairman. He, Cardinal Lou Brock, will be in attendance at celebrity corner at Clayton Road and Brentwood Boulevard.

"It's amazing the support we've received this year," Wetterau said. "The people of St. Louis really believe in this project."

Someday, I really think Old Newsboys Day can be the biggest single one-day fund-raising event in St. Louis.

"And the wonderful thing about it is the more we collect, the more we can help the local charities and the 10,000 children they support each year," Wetterau said.

Karen Carroll is a believer. The vice president and general manager of KMOX Radio, Carroll is the 1998 Old Newsboys Day chairman. Her first exposure to Old Newsboys Day was as a street corner salesman.

"I remember the cold," she said. "But there was a lot of excitement as we sold the papers. This year, with the new direction to Old Newsboys Day, we should do even better. The Westfield program is exciting and it's good to see so much support from St. Louis' top companies."

Tom Rice, president and CEO of the Suburban Journals, feels the new approach to the Old Newsboys Day charitable drive will mean a successful future for a program that has a lot of tradition.

"The new Old Newsboys board and the tremendous support of the major corporations in St. Louis will make all the difference to the children of St. Louis," he said. "Let's face it, Old Newsboys Day was too often victimized by poor weather and the new laws by communities that kept us off street corners."

"We can look to the future with confidence now, assured that the children's charities that depend on our support will continue to be funded," Rice said.

Old Newsboys Day begins each year before the crack of dawn. As St. Louisans prepare to head for school and work, volunteers already are making their way in the darkness to their assigned corners. As the morning wears on and the new day begins, the volunteers work the traffic lanes to collect a dollar here and a dollar there that eventually finds its way to a local agency that will put it to good use.

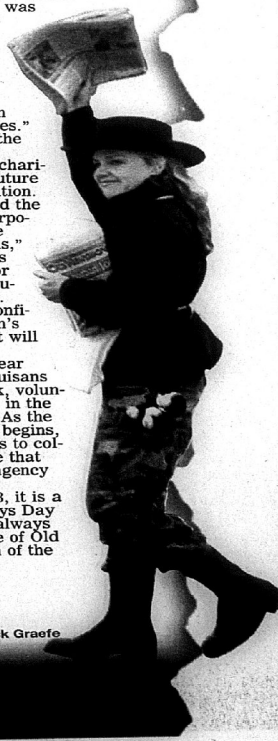
Regardless of the weather in 1998, it is a bright new day for the Old Newsboys Day program. The bottom line though, always will be the willingness of the people of Old Newsboys Day helping the children of the St. Louis region.

It's a simple idea, really.

Photo by Rick Graefe

Old Newsboys Day Chairmen 1957-1998

- 1957 Whitelaw T. Terry
- 1958 Jimmy Conzelman
- 1959 Stan Musial
- 1960 Leif J. Sverdrup
- 1961 David R. Calhoun
- 1962 J. W. McAfee
- 1963 Ethan A.H. Shepley
- 1964 Edwin M. Clark
- 1965 William A. McDonnell
- 1966 August A. Busch
- 1967 James P. Hickok
- 1968 Frederic M. Pierce
- 1969 Harry F. Harrington
- 1970 Richard A. Goodson
- 1971 J. Arthur Baer
- 1972 Joseph A. Simpkins
- 1973 (No Chairman)
- 1974 Donald E. Lasater
- 1975 August A. Busch III
- 1976 Robert F. Hyland
- 1977 Clarence C. Barksdale
- 1978 Charles F. Knight
- 1979 John W. Hanley
- 1980 R. Hal Dean
- 1981 Leonor K. Sullivan
- 1982 Robert R. Hermann
- 1983 David S. Lewis
- 1984 Edward J. Schnuck
- 1985 Edward W. Frantel
- 1986 Donald N. Brandin
- 1987 William E. Cornelius
- 1988 William Maritz
- 1989 Dr. William Danforth
- 1990 G. Duncan Bauman
- 1991 Samuel Hayes
- 1992 Blanche Touhill
- 1993 Horace Wilkins, Jr.
- 1994 Craig Schnuck
- 1995 Rod Zimmerman
- 1996 Mark Lamping
- 1997 Ted Wetterau
- 1998 Karen Carroll



Watching baseball clears fence for teens, preteens

By Justin R. Lopinot
Staff writer

I may be jumping to conclusions, but I think it's fairly safe to assume that Mark McGwire may have had something to do with teens and preteens picking baseball as their favorite sport to watch.

I went to a few games this summer. I saw the screaming kids, standing on their seats and leaning over the guard rail in the nose-bleed section every time McGwire stepped to the plate. Although I was shocked to see such disappointment on their faces each time McGwire didn't hit a home run (the other 500 plus times he batted), I was pleased that the kids seemed genuinely interested in the game.

To me, watching baseball as a youth meant sitting in front of a television with my father, asking questions to the point of annoyance.

"What is an error?"
"What is a 4-3 double play?"

"How come Ozzie Smith only does flips on commercial clips?"

After a few summers, hiding from mom (whose daily reminder was, "You can watch the games after you clean your room") in the base-

ment to watch the game, I learned to appreciate the sport and its rich history.

Through the help of my father, I also learned to enjoy watching hockey.

I didn't have the flashing puck to help the sport connect to my Star Wars infatuation - many of the first games I watched were on a small, black and white television in my bedroom.

Dad would tell me about watching the Blues play during the team's early years as I rooted for my favorite players, Mark Hunter, Bernie Federko and, later, Rich Sutter.

I'm sure many of the teens and pre-teens that picked hockey as their favorite sport to watch are the same ones I see at the Kiel Center, chomping on \$8 nachos with one hand, waving a giant \$10 banner with the other, and not having a clue as to what the heck's going on.

Watching football and basketball were never real favorites of mine, but I can recall a few memories: rooting for the AFC in the Super Bowl every year only to be disappointed, wanting to be like Mike when the Bulls stunk, and

being at a St. Louis Cardinals football game at Busch Stadium in the middle of winter, just wanting to go home.

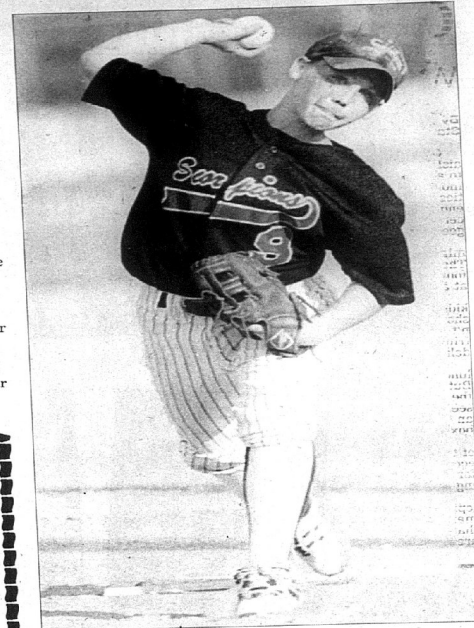
Soccer never really made an impact on television (or did I miss something?) or as a professional sport (remember the Steamers and Storm?), so all of my soccer-watching memories come from attending my sisters' games.

Jennifer had a killer instinct. She was a yellow card machine until her feet went bad and she had to quit playing competitively.

Although she was fun to watch, she was also fun to watch with. I remember a few years ago, watching my youngest sister, Carrie, play in a tournament game. Like

a pair of possessed, adrenalized cheerleaders, Jennifer and I bought poster board and markers and created signs. Jennifer's read: "Carrie 3-16." Mine, complete with a skull and crossbones, read: "Kill 'em Carrie." When then went on to obnoxiously cheer her on to the point of embarrassment.

Those fall and spring soccer games were a great bonding experience, as were the times I spent with my father watching hockey and baseball. Now I just need to get over my fear of \$8 nachos and figure out what a 6-4-3 double play is.



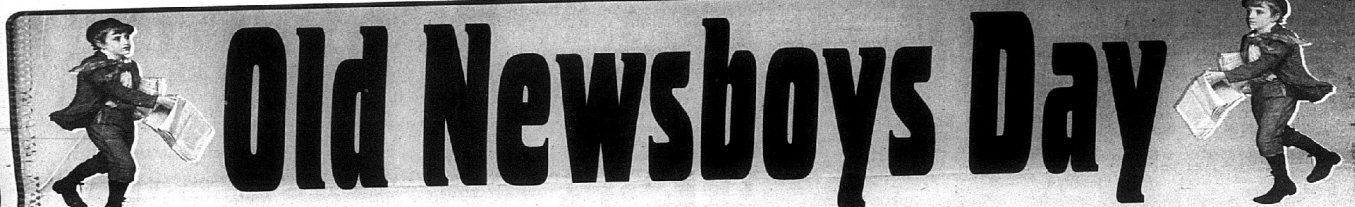
Brad Wilson photo

Jay Emmons, 11, pitches for the Manchester Scorpions.

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FAVORITE SPORT TO WATCH

<p>teens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. baseball 2. hockey 3. football 4. basketball 5. soccer 	<p>preteens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. baseball 2. hockey 3. football 4. basketball 5. soccer
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Good Luck On Old Newsboy Day!

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Cereal beckons to wide-eyed children

Who can resist those lovable breakfast characters?

By Glen Sparks
Staff writer

Of all the supermarket aisles, none is more colorful to a kid, more delightful, more full of zesty possibilities than the one brimming end-to-end with breakfast cereal boxes, the stuff that goes good over milk.

For parents, this aisle might be a place best avoided. The average kid could choose four or five or even six boxes at a time.

This is a chance for the kids to toss something into the shopping cart. That just doesn't happen as much during trips through the seafood or deli sections.

Sure, kids can choose lunchmeat and some snacks. But none of that appears in the store, at least as it must seem to a 7-year-old, in such an endless stream of box after box.

And just look at the front of these boxes. A cast of eccentric characters competes for the attention of cereal-loving kids.

A befuddled sea cap'n, a leprechaun with a taste for marshmallows, a crazy rabbit that never understands "Trix are for kids," a toucan that



**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE BREAKFAST CEREAL

<p>teens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cap'n Crunch 2. Cocoa Puffs 3. Cheerios 4. Rice Krispies 5. Lucky Charms 	<p>preteens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frosted Flakes 2. Cheerios 3. Rice Krispies 4. Fruit Loops 5. Oreo O's
---	--

sounds like a butler and follows his nose "it always knows, the flavor of fruit" and, of course, an enthusiastic tiger, among others.

In the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards poll, pre-teens chose Frosted Flakes as No. 1, with the aforementioned earnest tiger, Tony, as pitch-cat.

That's not surprising. Shoot, these flakes are not just good. As Tony the Tiger proclaims, "They're Ger-r-real!"

Teens opted for Cap'n Crunch with Cocoa Puffs ("I'm cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs") as runner-up.

Cap'n, my Cap'n. I can attest more to the mouth-watering taste of your cereal than I can to the aptitude of your command or the seaworthiness of your ship.

Some breakfast time regulars such as Count Chocula, Coca Pebbles and Fruity Pebbles starring Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble didn't make the top five of

either list. And, a little help here, is Sugar Bear still around?

And Alpha-bits might just remind some kids too much of school. There's a chance those floating bits could spell "M-A-T-H" or "G-R-A-M-M-A-R."

Total and other "more serious" cold cereals that health-conscious adults eat in the morning before consuming three bananas and a pear for lunch and fish loaded to the gills with Omega 3 acid for dinner also didn't cut it.

Though look for Wheaties to become a breakfast-time regular for St. Louis youngsters. At least as long as Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire's picture adorns the box.

(An aside: During the research so important to putting together this piece, I discovered in at least one particular supermarket that the cereals were positioned on one side of the aisle with sugary fruit juices and chocolate treats on the other side. Ah, this could not be an accident.)

I mean, putting cold cereal on the left side of the aisle and shampoo or nasal decongestants on the right side just doesn't make sense, right?

Well, it's time to end this piece. The Apple-Cinnamon Cheerios are here. Pass the milk.

Monkey see, monkey like


Continued from Page 1B

child than that of a dog, cat or domesticated animal. "It has been said that only one person in 10,000 should have a monkey for a pet. If you can't stand to have your hair mussed, your magazines torn, dishes broken, ashtrays upset, lamps knocked over and drapes ripped, don't get a simian for a pet," according to a website authored by Brad Trethewey and his spotted-nosed guenon, Trouble.

Procuring a pet monkey is costly and time-consuming. Federal legislation prohibits the importation of simians for pet trade, only

allowing it for research, zoos and breeding colonies. Pet monkeys may be purchased from a breeder or an exotic animal broker, who must be USDA licensed. However, one must be wary of animals carrying illnesses or those shipped before the age of eight weeks, which may not survive.

A variety of books and websites exist detailing the loving relationships between owner and pet monkey. But all warn about the great responsibility of owning an exotic animal.



**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE ANIMAL AT ZOO

<p>teens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. monkeys 2. tigers 3. bears 4. lions 5. koala bear 	<p>preteens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. monkeys 2. lions 3. tigers 4. bears 5. koala bear
--	---

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Kids pick Kate Winslet, Drew Barrymore

Successes of 'Titanic,' 'Wedding Singer' help winners respectively

By Larry Ingram
Staff Writer

One came from a blockbuster movie; the other from a blockbuster family. Kate Winslet and Drew Barrymore are the pre-teen and teen picks for favorite actress in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards, respectively. Winslet's already stellar career was shot into an even higher orbit by her role in the juggernaut "Titanic." In the romantic tragedy, Winslet plays the daughter whose mother wants to marry her off not for love

but for money. Older viewers may have caught her acclaimed performance in another popular movie, "Sense and Sensibilities," in which she played opposite Emma Thompson in the novel by Jane Austen. The same energy that she brought to that role has won her over to another generation of fans. On the other hand, teen respondents said they'd rather see Drew Barrymore on the big screen. Members of the Barrymore family have been entertaining audiences for

several generations. When Drew was only a baby, mother Jaid took her to auditions, and at 11 months, she starred in her first commercial. It was for Gainsburger puppy food.

As a child, Drew Barrymore also played the role of Gertie in "E.T. The Extraterrestrial." Barrymore recently acted alongside Adam Sandler in "The Wedding Singer," a wacky romantic comedy which was also tagged as favorite comedy movie by teens.

In "The Wedding Singer," Barrymore's character takes a job as a waitress to be closer to her fiancée. She asks the wedding singer (Adam Sandler) to help her plan her own wedding. In the process, the two fall in love.

Also in the rankings: A surprise response from pre-teens was Helen Hunt, best known for her role in "Mad About You." Hunt plays Jamie Buckman, the wife of Paul Buckman, played by Paul Riser. The Buckmans, a documentary filmmaker and his Yale-educated, intermittently employed wife, face modern problems with laughs and lots of compromise. Sometimes they even work



Drew Barrymore, above, and Kate Winslet, right, are kids' favorites.



together, with frustrating results: (Jamie: "I missed you last week." Paul: "We were together every minute." Jamie: "I know. I didn't have time to think about you - to miss you. I missed missing you!") It seems teens and pre-teens favored love and laughs in their picks.

McDonald's **fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE ACTRESS

Teens	Preteens
1. Drew Barrymore	1. Kate Winslet
2. Julia Roberts	2. Mary Kate & Ashley Olsen
3. Sarah Michelle Geller	3. Alicia Silverstone
4. Meg Ryan	4. Helen Hunt
5. Pamela Anderson Lee	5. Whoopi Goldberg

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Carrey, SNL alumni make kids laugh most

But 'Home Alone' remains a favorite

By Joe Leicht
Staff Writer

An old standard is still a favorite and funny man. Jim Carrey continues to score with young readers in the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards.

But if you want a possible preview of whose comedies your kids will flock to in movies over the next few years, you might want to watch NBC's "Saturday Night Live."

Macaulay Culkin is a married man these days, but who will forget his signature yelp as he splashed after-shave lotion on his prepubescent mug in "Home Alone"?

Certainly not the Journal's preteen readers. They chose "Home Alone" as their No. 1 favorite comedy in the 1998 McDonald's Children's Choice poll.

What has made the movie...

...which has spawned two sequels and become a holiday classic... such a lasting hit among kids?

fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS
FAVORITE MOVIE COMEDY

teens	preteens
1. Wedding Singer	1. Home Alone
2. Liar, Liar	2. Liar, Liar
3. Tommy Boy	3. Dumb and Dumber
4. Happy Gilmore	4. Toy Story
5. Ace Ventura	5. Parent Trap

"The stuff he does to trick the robbers," said 9-year-old Sissie Mudd of Red Bud. "When he puts ice on the steps and makes them fall. He burns them. He puts the spider on them. It's funny."

Jacob Kuntz, 10, of South County agrees. "He's smarter than the bad guys," Jacob said. "They keep trying to get him, and every time they fall down or something."

A pair of more recent films starring Carrey ranked second and third among pre-teen readers: "Liar, Liar"

and "Dumb and Dumber." The animation marvel "Toy Story" and the remake of Walt Disney's "The Parent Trap" rounded out the top five all-time comedies in the preteen class.



Macaulay Culkin in a scene from "Home Alone."

films starring alumni of "Saturday Night Live." NBC's long-running, late-night comedy showcase, Adam Sandler finished at the head of the class with "The Wedding Singer," the story of a num-skull musician for hire who ends up stealing a bride (Drew Barrymore) right out from under her prospective groom's nose.

Readers also liked seeing Sandler cutting up and busting heads as a short-fused hockey player in "Happy Gilmore," the fourth-ranked comedy among teens.

"I just think (Sandler's) a riot in movies."

Jen Kennedy
St. Louis resident

goers? It's hard to tell. Jen Kennedy, 16, of St. Louis, didn't watch "Saturday Night Live" very much.

"I just think (Sandler's) a riot in movies," Kennedy said.

Brad Wilhite, 18, has a sense of history, however. "I know a lot of actors from that show made some great movies after they left (it)," he said. "Chevy Chase, Bill Murray, Eddie Murphy. I think they were all on there."

Some comedies have shown real lasting power since young Journal readers started expressing their choices in 1996. "Happy Gilmore," "Ace Ventura," "Tommy Boy" and "Dumb and Dumber" have been among the favorites three years running.

Colorful candies tantalize teens' taste buds

By Jason White
Staff writer

Colorful candies of chocolate and fruit flavors are faves of the teen and pre-teen sets in St. Louis.

Suburban Journals pre-teen readers chose M&M's as their favorite candy in the annual McDonald's Children's Choice Awards, while teens favored fruit-flavored Skittles.

Chocolate was a favorite of both, with Snickers, Butterfinger and Reese's pieces placing second, third and fourth for pre-teens.

Teens also like chocolate, placing Butterfinger, chocolate and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups third, fourth and fifth. Second is a lesser-known candy called The Crave.

The candies' appeal is evident even in cyberspace. Although an Internet search turned up lots of listings under "crave," none were about candy. But one "crave" site explains what most people know intuitively: it increases the brain's production of serotonin, a chemical that aids relaxation.

"When we get used to this dosing effect of sugar, we increase our 'need' for this feeling, and thus sugary foods become addictive," a nutrition expert says. "Cocaine is not the only white powder that gives you an instant hit!"

On the lighter side, the Internet candy tour turned up some obscure facts and odd comments about the two top candies, from the history of M&M's to statistical studies of Skittles.

The official M&M's Website says that Forrest Mars Sr. got the idea for M&M's when he saw soldiers in the Spanish Civil War eating chocolate pellets encased

fourth annual CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS
FAVORITE CANDY

teens	preteens
1. Skittles	1. M&M's
2. The Crave	2. Snickers
3. Butterfinger	3. Butterfinger
4. chocolate	4. Reese's Pieces
5. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups	5. Warheads

in a hard coating that prevented melting. Originally packaged in cardboard tubes, M&M's were sold to the U.S. military as a "convenient snack that traveled well in any climate," the site says.

M&M's were initially all brown, but red, green and yellow were added in 1960. Orange was added in 1976, with Blue joining the mix in 1995.

In 1996, the M&M's characters surpassed the popularity of Bart Simpson and Mickey Mouse, according to Marketing Evaluation Inc. This month, the characters will star in the first M&M's feature film when a new 3D-movie attractions opens at

the Las Vegas "M&M's World" store, which features a variety of M&M's-themed merchandise.

A search on Skittles, the favorite candy of teenagers, produced a mixed bag of responses.

"Talk about a sugar

rush," a site called "She's got a sweet tooth" says. "They're so... chewy you've gotta love 'em (until your jaw starts to bust)!"

Another e-mailer lauds "the sound a skittle makes when you crunch it."

Still other sites list Skittles' ingredients, including the fact that a bag of Skittles has 35 percent the recommended daily allowance of Vitamin C.

The flavors in the three types of Skittles - Regular, Tropical and Wild Berry - are strawberry, orange, grape, lemon and lime in Regular; watermelon, banana, kiwi, lime, passion fruit and tangerine in Tropical; and raspberry, strawberry, wild cherry, berry punch and melon berry in Wild Berry.

Of those, a survey indicates the favorites are grape, watermelon and a three-way

tie for raspberry, wild cherry and berry punch. The Wild Berry type generated 13 votes compared to nine each for the other two.

Indeed, it seems that Skittles gets a "yes" vote from the youth of the nation. "I think that Skittles rules," reads a post from Skittle Blue. "If you don't have at least one Skittle a day, then you're just dumb."

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Fries are spectacular spuds

Teens in Children's Choice poll prefer McDonald's

By Becky Garrison
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, Burger King introduced its "new" french fries and claimed in ads the fries beat McDonald's fries in a nationwide taste test.

But what do area teens think? The McDonald's Children's Choice Awards voting shows when it comes to french fries, teens and preteens still prefer McDonald's.

But how much do these kids really know about the french fry?

Taste is only one facet of this fascinating food, commonly referred to as the dietary equivalent of television.

French fries, at least in the United States, are said to have received their name from "potatoes, fried in the French manner," which is how Thomas Jefferson described a dish he brought over to the colonies in the late 1700s.

With Jefferson representing the U.S. and France, the french fry takes on an international perspective.

This popular side dish came not only across the Atlantic but also across the English Channel to Great Britain, where it is known as a "chip." This could explain that soggy taste, often experienced at the end of the bag.

**fourth annual
CHILDREN'S
CHOICE AWARDS**

FAVORITE FRENCH FRIES

<p>teens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. McDonald's 2. Rally's 3. Burger King 4. Sonic 5. Popeye's 	<p>preteens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. McDonald's 2. Burger King 3. White Castle 4. Steak 'n' Shake 5. Rally's
--	---

Fries can be served year-round, as they are great in the summer and warming on a cold winter day.

They can be served several ways, including standard-cut, shoestring, steak-cut, waffle-cut, western or spiral. Few have not been tempted by their beckoning aroma.

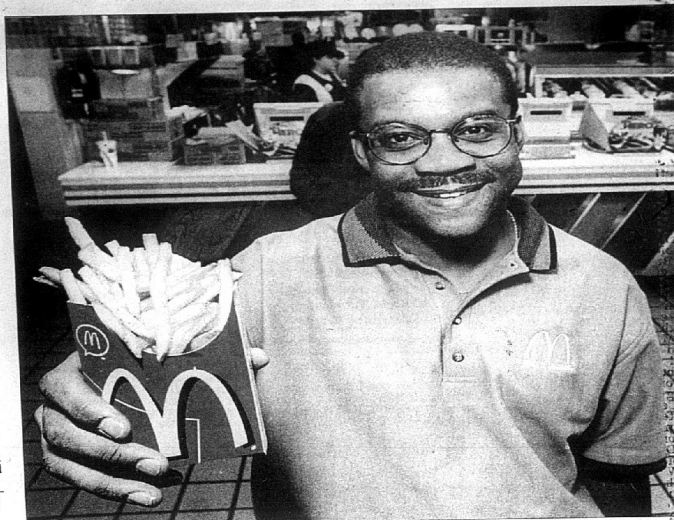
The french fry is also versatile. Not only can it be put to good use when it is hot, but it is also useful when cold and stale.

This spectacular spud can be used as a cork for insulation around drafty windows or as a toy to create train tracks.

The U.S. government alone has seven pages of regulations pertaining to the slender spud, which include everything from color to texture to taste.

Fries are available almost everywhere in the world, and not just at fast-food restaurants. So the next time someone says, "Did somebody say french fries?" remember to "have it your way" and get your fries wherever you like.

The fry should not be judged by taste alone. For there is a far deeper meaning to those infamous words: "Do you want fries with that?"



Rick Graefe photo

Stephen Dawson, owner/operator of the McDonald's Restaurant franchise in Manchester, is proud to be a part of the company voted to have the best french fries.

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Persistence pays off for perky anchors

By Steven Martens
Staff writer

When I was given the assignment of writing about the winners of the "Favorite Local TV Personality" category of the 1998 McDonald's Children's Choice Awards, I found myself in a predicament.

Having only moved to the St. Louis area a few months ago, I didn't feel like I knew enough about the winners. KSDK Channel 5's Jennifer Blome in the pre-teen age group and KTVI Channel 2's Mandy Murphey in the teen group, to do them justice.

Actually, I had no idea who they were. But, never having been the kind of reporter who would let a complete lack of knowledge about my subject deter me from a story, I decided to find out who these two journalists are and why they are so popular.

I began by calling their respective stations to request some background information and a photo. The public relations people from the two stations had the information on my desk so fast I thought it had been beamed there, Star Trek-style. I've had longer waits in the express lane at the grocery store. I don't know who these public relations people are, but I know of more than a few government agencies that could use some

fourth annual
McDonald's CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS
FAVORITE LOCAL TV PERSONALITY

<p>teens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandy Murphey 2. Victoria Babu 3. Malcolm Briggs 4. Alan Barklage 5. Jennifer Blome 	<p>pretens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennifer Blome 2. Steve Savard 3. Malcolm Briggs 4. Mandy Murphey 5. Rich Gould
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lessons in efficiency from them. From her biographical sketch, I learned that Blome, a native of Baltimore, joined the KSDK team in 1979. Blome currently co-anchors "Today in St. Louis" with Art Holliday and the noon newscast.

Murphey, who came to St. Louis from Kentucky in 1991, co-anchors the 5 p.m., 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts at KTVI, according to her bio. You can't help but wonder if one of the reasons she is so popular is that with three newscasts a night, she doesn't seem to leave the studio very often.

I recently plopped myself

down on the couch to catch Murphey on the 5 p.m. newscast. I noticed that she moved her hands a lot when she spoke and seemed very energetic, especially for someone with several newscasts for the evening left to go. Or maybe she just seemed very energetic in contrast to her stoic co-anchor, Dick Ford who, to me, physically resembled a pre-politics Ronald Reagan. Either way, Murphey fit in well with the generally busy feel of the KTVI news, with its eye-popping graphics and backdrop of a collage of St. Louis landmarks: the Arch, Busch Stadium, rush-hour traffic on I-70 moving at a brisk 20 miles per hour.

Maybe I saw that last one somewhere else.

It's easy to imagine a family sitting around a breakfast table on a weekday morning, watching Blome on "Today in St. Louis" for a weather and traffic update before heading off to school or work.

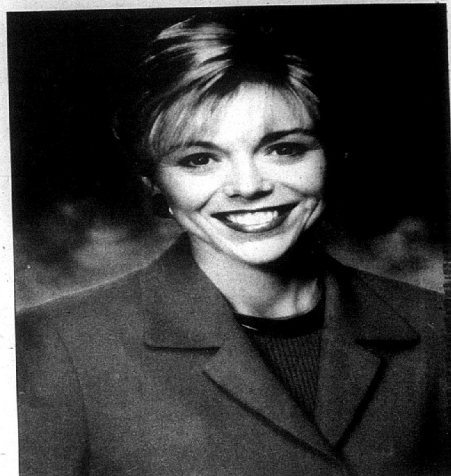
Unfortunately, I was groggy on five hours of sleep and fumbling for my glasses when I clicked on Channel 5 at 6:30 in the morning to catch Blome on the air.

At a time in the morning when I could barely conceive of being awake, Blome was at the top of her game.

Blome went outside near the end of the show to interview some of the people who had gathered on the street near the studio's window. She wasn't wearing a coat, despite the fact that the 38-degree temperature that morning had been reported at least 10 times since I had started watching 20 minutes earlier.

But Blome didn't even shiver as she interviewed her sign-wielding subject. A real trooper.

It wasn't hard to see why the kids participating in the polling had chosen these two journalists. Blome wakes up at an unbelievable hour of the morning and Murphey is on the air all night, just to keep their viewers informed, and their sacrifice is appreciated by the kids of the St. Louis area.



Mandy Murphey

Kids love their vegetables

Running away from steamed broccoli is thing of past

By Scott Cousins
Staff Writer

It used to be a common cry heard throughout homes across the country, wherever children and their parents gathered for dinner: "Eat your vegetables!"

But it seems that times are changing, and vegetables are

becoming more popular among children and teenagers.

Maybe parents just had the wrong vegetables or, more likely, didn't know how to serve them.

The same five vegetables, although in different orders, seem to leave the studios of both teens and pretens in

the McDonald's Children's Choice Awards. For pretens, carrots were the favorite vegetable. In second place was corn, followed by green beans, potatoes and broccoli.

See VEGGIES, Page 19B

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Veggies are hit with kids

Continued from Page 18B

For teens, the most popular vegetable was corn, followed by broccoli, green beans, carrots and potatoes.

Sharon Van Meter, guest chef at Brandt's Market & Cafe in St. Louis, said the biggest reason many children don't like vegetables is because they see their parents not eating them.

"I think children will eat anything, but if they're influenced by the visual effect of their parents not eating something, they just won't eat it," she said.

Van Meter said her own two children eat a wide variety of foods, including all kinds of vegetables.

"I never limited them,"

she said. "They're allowed to eat McDonalds and they're allowed to eat escargot."

She said parents also need to break away from the old style of cooking vegetables — boiling canned vegetables until all the flavor, vitamins and minerals are gone.

"A prime example is spinach — who would eat canned spinach," she said. "I do spinach in about 100 different ways, and kids eat it."

But things are getting better, partially because of the greater emphasis on healthy eating.

"Times have changed so much," Van Meter said. "Our generation is now cooking totally different for our kids."

Carrey, DiCaprio named as favorites

By Scott Kelly
Staff Writer

The rubber face and the heart throb battled for top billing in this year's McDonald's Children's Choice Awards.

Jim Carrey and Leonardo DiCaprio topped the list of favorite actor for teens and preteens this year. Carrey topped the preteen list and came in second for teens.

Carrey, the funnyman with the rubber face, starred in this summer's unique "The Truman Show," a yarn depicting Carrey as the title character of his own television show — only he doesn't know he's the star. Hidden cameras document every part of his life, until he finally gets wise and tries to unplug the popular show.

"The Truman Show" was a change of pace for Carrey, who usually stars as over-the-top characters such as "pet detective" Ace Ventura and in infantile offerings such as the wildly popular "Dumb and Dumber."

Carrey's ability to garner the laughs hit a huge peak with last year's "Liar, Liar." Carrey stars as a lawyer whose inability to tell the

truth causes his disappointed and hurt son to wish that for 24 hours, dad couldn't lie. The movie is Carrey's best, and his rubber face and left-field humor scored big with all audiences.

"Liar, Liar" also scored as the second-favorite movie comedy of teens and preteens, with "Ace Ventura" and "Dumb and Dumber" also making their lists.

DiCaprio, teens' favorite choice and preteens' second choice, swooned young girls as he swept Kate Winslet off her feet in the incredible record-setter "Titanic."

The three-hour tale of the doomed passenger liner coupled with the fairy-tale romance of Rose and Jack drew audiences in droves for the better part of the year.

With his good looks and charm, DiCaprio made young girls wish they were Rose, taken from a bad relationship, romanced and taught to live life to its fullest.

Teens probably avoided DiCaprio's follow-up film, "The Man in the Iron Mask," which did poorly at the box office, but "Titanic" fever continued even through its video release in late summer.



Leonardo DiCaprio

fourth annual McDonald's CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE VEGETABLE

teens

1. corn
2. broccoli
3. green beans
4. carrots
5. potatoes

preteens

1. carrots
2. corn
3. green beans
4. potatoes
5. broccoli

fourth annual McDonald's CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE ACTOR

teens

1. Leonardo DiCaprio
2. Jim Carrey
3. Mel Gibson
4. Chris Tucker
5. Matt Damon

preteens

1. Jim Carrey
2. Leonardo DiCaprio
3. Robin Williams
4. Eddie Murphy
5. Will Smith



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